

**WHY GIRLS CAN'T MAKE THE FIRST MOVE**  
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**FEATHERS FLY IN A WILTSHIRE VILLAGE**  
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**THE HELL OF LIFE ON THE ROAD**  
Caitlin Moran  
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**Brian Glanville's 100 GREATEST FOOTBALLERS OF ALL TIME**  
MAGAZINE

Tory charges rejected, Times told

## Simon breaks silence on shares row

By Philip Webster and Andrew Pierce

LORD Simon of Highbury, the minister at the centre of the BP shares row, today fights back against his Tory critics, rejecting their "charges and innuendoes" that he is guilty of a conflict of interest in keeping his £2 million holding.

The Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, and former chairman of BP, breaks his silence on the affair to warn that the furor stirred up by the Conservatives might make other businessmen wary of becoming involved in government.

He describes claims against him by Tory spokesmen as without foundation, untrue and absurd.

And in an astonishing aside, he says that the conclusion of the arguments advanced by "what was once the party of business" was that all businessmen entering government were inevitably subject to conflict of interests and should be barred.

"That would be a shame for politics. It would be a shame for Britain," he writes in *The Times*. He voices shock that the criticism should have come not from old Labour but "an apparent champion of the free market", John Redwood.

However, he makes plain that he has no intention of standing down. "I have a thick skin and will not be deflected from the challenge of helping Britain win in Europe."

Lord Simon delivers a detailed defence of the charges



Simon: "I have thick skin and will not be deflected"

Lord Simon does not say why it was inappropriate for his BP shares to go into a blind trust. Last night Whitehall sources said it was thought possible that insider trading legislation would still apply if the trustees dealt in Lord Simon's shares because he would have had privileged knowledge at the time that he put them into the trust.

The minister's fightback comes after the Prime Minister yesterday published a new code of conduct for ministers with stricter rules on financial interests.

The rules also confirmed the massive centralisation of power in Downing Street that has occurred since Labour returned to power. In future ministers will have to get clearance from the Downing Street press office before they give major interviews to either newspapers or broadcasters or make media appearances. They will also have to clear the policy content of all major speeches, press releases, and policy initiatives with the No 10 private office, while the timing and form of announcements will have to be cleared with the press office.

Lord Simon describes as "absurd and totally without foundation" charges that he still takes decisions that relate to BP. "No BP-specific matters come before me. In all the flurry of political invective

Continued on page 2, col 1

Legal position, page 8  
Lord Simon, page 16  
Leading article, page 17

## British fishermen angry over ruling

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

SPANISH trawler owners are entitled to claim compensation for the multimillion-pound losses they claim they suffered while illegally excluded from British fishing waters, the High Court ruled yesterday.

British trawlermen, who say the Spanish are being rewarded for stealing British fish, responded angrily to the judgement, which could cost taxpayers more than £50 million in damages.

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"Next year I'm going to choose our holiday reading"

## Legal move on Aids infection

The Government is considering making it an offence intentionally to infect another person with a disease, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said in a Commons written answer.

The announcement came on the day that Paul Georgiou was jailed by a Cypriot court for 15 months for knowingly infecting his British lover, Janette Pink with the Aids virus. Page 9

## Property sale

The Department of Social Security is to sell its property portfolio, worth £400 million, to Partnership Property Management, a consortium led by Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank. It will be the UK's largest single real estate transaction. Page 21

## Drug bans eased

Lindford Christie condemned a decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation to reduce bans on athletes found guilty of drug taking from four to two years. He said it would only increase drug-taking. Pages 38, 40



Robert Ballard announcing his discovery, with some of the artefacts in front

## Titanic explorer finds graveyard of treasures

By Tom Rhodes and Nick Nuttall

THE explorer who found the wreck of the *Titanic* has used an underwater robot and a once-secret nuclear submarine to prowl the depths of the Mediterranean, discovering the greatest concentration of ancient shipwrecks.

Robert Ballard, whose detection of the ocean liner and the German battleship *Bismarck* have earned him a reputation as the Indiana Jones of underwater exploration, was joined by two British archaeologists in his latest venture, a project that will make recoverable almost every object ever sunk.

During a six-week expedition in May to the Mediterranean trading route that linked ancient Rome with Carthage, Mr Ballard and his team of researchers found eight ships and thousands of pristine artefacts spanning more than 2,000 years. The area, northwest of Sicily, endures unpredictable storms and violent seas and is described as being similar to the infamous Bermuda Triangle, the site of numerous wrecked and lost vessels.

Until now, no big shipwreck has been discovered below 200 feet. But the modern technology employed by the Ballard expedition can extend to depths of 20,000ft, enough to reach 98 per cent of all ocean floors. "I'm convinced that the deep sea holds a vast amount of human history, more than is held in all of the museums of the world," Mr Ballard told the National Geographic Society in Washington.

Among those who took part in the exploration were Jonathan Adams of the Centre for Marine Archaeology at the University of Southampton

and Cathy Giangrande, a conservationist at University College London. Equipped with *NR-1*, a US Navy nuclear submarine, Carolyn Chouest, a support ship, and *Jason*, an unmanned submersible vessel, the team found five Roman ships from 200 BC to AD 400, an Islamic fishing vessel from the 17th or 18th century and two ships from the 19th century.

The oldest craft, 100ft long and carrying two lead anchors, was one of the earliest Roman wrecks found. Her holds were filled with fine bronze vessels and at least eight different types of amphorae, the clay containers used to transport wine, olive oil, fish sauce and preserved fruit. Another Roman galley carried a cargo of granite building stones and monolithic columns apparently ready for assembly into a temple.

Mr Ballard, of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts, and president of the newly founded Institute for Exploration in Mystic, Connecticut, said the group of scientists had been amazed by their finds which at first they had thought had all been sunk at the same time.

"At one point the submarine was finding a Roman ship every other day. We had to tell them to stop," he said. "All of a sudden we realised we had found a graveyard of ships spanning 2,000 years."

After the submarine had located a wreck, the support ship maintained its position above while *Jason* was dispatched with its radar and cameras. Its scanning sonar was used to build a three-dimensional map of the wreck site before, on autopilot, it moved at an inch a second photographing the wreckage and artefacts. Finally the pilots at the surface manoeuvred its robotic arm to recover only those pieces necessary for dating the wrecks.

"Removing artefacts in essence destroys the site," Mr Ballard said. "In future we can have in situ deep ocean museums that we can visit electronically."

Along the route, which he had predicted would be littered with shipwrecks, the submarine found a 20-square mile area strewn with debris. By comparison, the *Titanic* and *Bismarck* were found with fragments spread over only half a mile. This not merely suggested heavy traffic along the trading route used by Romans and Phoenicians, but also heralded the prospect of hundreds more shipwrecks off Greece and Egypt.

A jug for table use lifted from a trading ship

Marine technology, page 3

## Mills in fight for credibility after third court attack

By Richard Ford and Frances Gibb

DAME Barbara Mills was fighting last night to restore her credibility as Director of Public Prosecutions as the Government further reduced her independence after the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was castigated in the courts for the third time in a week.

Lord Justice Rose, the second most senior criminal judge, accused the CPS of repeatedly taking "a flawed approach" in its decision not to prosecute four former members of the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad.

The ruling deepened the crisis surrounding the operation of the CPS and within hours Dame Barbara held a meeting with one of the Government's Law Officers where it was agreed to extend the terms of reference of the enquiry into two "deaths in police custody" cases to cover the Derek Treadaway case.

Yesterday's judgment — which prompted immediate speculation about the DPP's future — coincides with the disclosure that the senior judiciary has delivered a damning indictment of the CPS's performance to Sir Ian Glidewell, the former Court of Appeal judge, conducting the Government review into the service.

A letter drafted on behalf of the judiciary by Lord Justice Auld is believed to conclude that the CPS is struggling to cope and that the delivery of the service on the ground is badly failing.

The critique, based on soundings from the 500-strong circuit bench and from High Court judges, will be a further blow to Dame Barbara.

Yesterday Lord Justice Auld declined to discuss the contents of the letter. But some judges have made no secret of their views that the CPS is blighted by constant delays,

caused by inadequate resources and a shortage of senior staff to take the relevant decisions.

Earlier in the High Court, Lord Justice Rose had delivered a stinging judgment in the latest challenge to a CPS decision not to bring a prosecution against police officers.

Derek Treadaway, who spent 13 years in jail before his conviction for robbery and conspiracy to rob was quashed, said at his trial that his "confession" was extracted from him by oppression and violence.

Lord Justice Rose said DPP decisions not to prosecute the officers in his case were perverse and flawed by a failure to give reasons. He accused Dame Barbara's department of not giving the "careful analysis" required to the ruling of a High Court judge who awarded Mr Treadaway, an armed robber, £50,000 compensation.

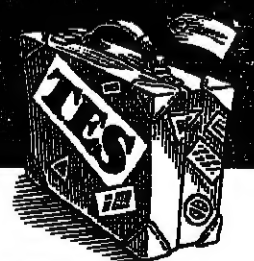
Lord Justice Rose said the CPS had breached its own test on whether there was enough evidence to prosecute the officers who allegedly tortured Mr Treadaway at Bromford Lane police station in Birmingham.

Although Dame Barbara took no part in the decisions on Mr Treadaway, yesterday's ruling further undermines her reputation and also that of the CPS.

It follows two cases last week in which she agreed to reconsider decisions not to prosecute police officers involved in incidents in which people had died in custody.

A spokeswoman for Dame Barbara said she had not been involved in the decision concerning Mr Treadaway and that she could not look at everyone of the 11,000 decisions a year taken by the CPS's central London division.

GET AWAY FROM IT ALL WITH THIS WEEK'S SUMMER SCHOOL



Today's issue includes:

- Seven steps to scripting a soap opera
- The thrill of a day return to Geneva
- An American in London learning French. "Je suis pretty dam clever," she says
- David Blunkett revealing his addiction to thrillers
- Jon Snow on the realities of life as a school governor

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

SCHOOL'S OUT AND SO IS THE TES - EVERY FRIDAY



# Leftwinger laughing through his teeth

This newspaper can categorically refuse to publish a rumour that Ronnie Campbell's teeth came out during his question on beer to industry ministers yesterday afternoon. It just looked like that.

In fact the Labour member for Blyth Valley was making a little joke. This likeable Geordie and former French polisher, described in Roth's *Parliamentary Profiles* as "unsophisticated, extrovert, fundamentalist left-wing local councillor-miner", is quoted as saying, "I am a radical and a fighter; just an ordinary leftwinger". A one-time supporter of Arthur Scargill, Campbell is pictured with "chubby face, reddened

when he shouts (often)". But none of this quite does justice to a noisy but good-natured and funny man, who lacks the sourness often associated with the Left.

The humour came through yesterday. His question answered — what action was Margaret Beckett taking to ensure that "beer drinkers receive full life in public houses?" — he put a supplementary New Labour, he told Madam Speaker, was, of course, "not against profit". But Campbell is about as new Labour as beer and skittles. He paused, then stuck his considerable fist into his even more considerable mouth.

That is what gave reporters the idea that Mr Campbell's teeth had come out, a rumour



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

that fast gained currency and was by sundown being recounted as fact.

But his teeth stayed in. Had he lost them he would not have been the first. Years ago, Anthony Beaumont-Dark, at that time the Tory MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, and now much missed at Westminster, was in mid-oration when — during a particularly emphatic denunciation of the Labour Party — his flying teeth lent his words an emphasis even Sir Anthony had not intended. With amazing skill (perhaps born of long

practice) the senior back-bencher caught the teeth before they hit the carpet.

The near-disaster was captured on video and replayed in slow motion (with a white circle around the teeth) on *A Week in Politics*, which received a stiff complaint from the Commons authorities for misusing parliamentary video footage. The service is not for use in undermining the dignity of honourable members. Heaven forbid that this sketch should try to do that! So, as the Commons rises for a near three-month summer

recess, it is with affectionate respect that we bring you a final update on the amazing Norman Baker, Liberal Democrat MP for Lewes. This sketch, announcing that "a bore is born", noticed some time ago what a broad range of domestic and world affairs Mr Baker held opinions on, and how often he offered them in the Chamber.

I was acting on a hunch, after Baker's energetic 24 interventions during the Plant Varieties Bill. Political science can now back hunch with evidence. Research shows that in the 55 days for which this new Parliament has sat, Mr Lewis has put down exactly 300 questions, 284 of which have received a written answer, 16 having

been answered on the floor of the House.

The official estimate for the cost to the public purse of answering a written question is £107. Oral questions are a snap at £249 each. A written answer yesterday from the Prime Minister to Jim Cunningham (Lab, Coventry S) suggests that the cost of Mr Baker, so far — exclusive of salary and expenses — is £30,000. That is conservative. Some of Baker's questions have been missed, and the figure rounded down.

We wish Mr Baker a happy holiday and — may we dare hope? — a little rest. For the next session we award him an ancient post in our unwritten constitution: Gold Anorak-in-Waiting.

# Blair sets tough code of conduct for ministers

Downing Street has tightened its control of Government in an effort to avoid 'sleaze', reports Valerie Elliott

TONY BLAIR yesterday published a tougher "catch-all" code of conduct for ministers in an effort to clean up politics, restore public trust and enshrine the primacy of No 10.

The iron grip that Mr Blair is wielding in Whitehall is confirmed officially in the guidance, which sets out strict rules on financial interests to avoid "sleaze".

Downing Street must approve all speeches, press releases and new initiatives, and their timing and presentation. Also, every interview and media appearance must be agreed with the No 10 press office.

Ministers may even have to write up the conversation of their lunches with journalists as every department has been instructed to keep a log of all media contacts. Mr Blair has also insisted on approving which duties are assigned to junior ministers.

The Prime Minister has made clear that any minister

who misleads Parliament must resign. In a foreword to the guidelines, last published in 1992, Mr Blair says: "In issuing this code, I should like to reaffirm my strong personal commitment to restoring the bond of trust between the British people and their Government. We are all here to serve and we must all serve honestly and in the interests of those who gave us our positions of trust."

Among other "dos and don'ts", ministers must not personally benefit from Air Miles accumulated in connection with official travel. However, the benefits may be used for official purposes or a minister may donate them to a charity named by the airline.

Ministers can now keep gifts up to the value of £140 — up from the previous maximum of £125 in line with inflation — but must inform their department's Permanent Secretary. Otherwise, no minister or civil servant, or mem-

ber of their family, can receive gifts, hospitality or services that may place them under an obligation.

No minister may sue for libel or launch any other legal action without first consulting the Government's law officers.

The code was implemented from the first day of the Labour Government, and Downing Street sources last night said that it would change nothing in relation to any minister, including Lord Simon of Highbury who has attracted controversy over his BP shareholding.

The code states implacably that ministers "must scrupulously avoid any danger of an actual or apparent conflict of interest between their ministerial position and their private financial interest".

In cases where ministers are brought into Government from industry, a profession or some other walk of life, the code says: "In order to avoid the danger of an actual or perceived conflict of interest, ministers should be guided in relation to their financial interest by the general principle that they should dispose of any financial interest giving rise to the actual or perceived conflict or take steps to prevent it."

## Simon speaks out

Continued from page 1

over the last few days nobody has ever suggested that I have taken any decision which specifically benefited BP."

The job given to him was to help British industry compete more effectively. If he was doing his job well he would benefit BP as well as any other company in Britain. "I make no apology for that. But attempts to claim that such generic decisions represent a conflict of interest border on the absurd. It is the equivalent of saying that the social security ministers should stop trying to modernise the welfare state if they are in a pension scheme."

He also rejects the claim that he was avoiding tax because some of his shares were held in a Jersey trust. That was also untrue because BP held shares perfectly legally in a Jersey trust relating to its long-term performance plan. Individuals paid tax on the shares as soon as they were awarded. He had paid full income tax on all the shares held in the trust.

Lord Simon writes: "I understand the Opposition and the media have a duty to ensure that the high standards in public life to which this Government is committed are

being maintained. But the facts in my case do not support their charges and innuendoes."

The *Times* also learnt last night that the minister will receive a further tranche of BP shares in the Jersey offshore trust. The payout next year could exceed £300,000.

Mr Redwood accused the minister of missing a golden opportunity to sell the shares the day he assumed office, which was 48 hours after the company published its last quarterly figures. He said a further opportunity would be offered next week when the latest figures were listed.

Mr Redwood said: "I am surprised by the suggestion that there could be a problem with insider dealing. It is normal practice for directors and former directors to sell immediately after results are posted. Lord Simon should have sold on May 8, the day he took up his post, exactly two days after the figures were announced. It would have avoided the suggestion of a conflict of interest."

He repeated his demand that Lord Simon should dispose of the shares, surrender his rights over the Jersey trust, or stand down as a minister. "They have to go," he said.

Leading article, page 17



Mark Dawson and son Alexander. He wanted child to continue family name

# Mother wins battle to decide baby's surname

By ENIMA WILKINS

A WOMAN yesterday won the right to give her illegitimate child her own surname despite the objections of the father.

The Court of Appeal ruled in favour of Dawn Wearmouth, who registered her baby as Alexander because of her husband's "common sense" dictated that the surname of a child should be determined by its relationship with the biological father and not the mother's ex-husband.

Mrs Wearmouth said after the judgement: "I am extremely pleased with the outcome. I am delighted that there has been a result after 15 months of going to court, which has been very stressful."

Both Mark Dawson and I can now concentrate on the primary concern which we both have which is the welfare of our child. His name is important but it is by no means the most important part of his life. All he is thinking about is his precious family name."

Mr Dawson, 34, a quality control manager, said he might take his legal battle to the House of Lords. "I am upset and extremely disappointed by the decision. Alex would have been the only child to carry my family name into the next generation. I am an only son and I come from a long line of only sons. My parents are very disappointed. We take a great deal of pride in the family."



Dawn Wearmouth: won right in Appeal Court

because it was also her ex-husband's. "These circumstances, coupled with the all-important fact already stresses that this was the child's duly registered name, seem to us to be very powerful factors in the mother's favour, which can only be displaced by strong countervailing considerations," they said.

Roger Hayward-Smith, QC, for Mrs Wearmouth, said the lower court's ruling meant that mothers of illegitimate children could be compelled to change their names to whatever

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Britons back Labour on economic policy

Gordon Brown, his Budget and the Government's economic policy have received overwhelming endorsement from the public in the latest MORI poll for *The Times* (Peter Riddell writes). More people believe the Budget will be good for the country as a whole than after any previous Budget for 20 years.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, indicates that 56 per cent think the Budget will be good for the country as a whole, and 20 per cent think it will be bad. However, 29 per cent think it will be good for them personally, while 37 per cent think it will be bad. A record 57 per cent think that, in the long term, this Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy, while 34 per cent disagree.

### Rail dispute on guards

The rail union RMT is to ballot 6,000 members at 20 train companies over industrial action in a dispute to protect the operating and safety roles of guards. Its general secretary, Jimmy Knapp, said that the Great Eastern Railway had managed to reduce the job to a few hours' training with its controversial plan to recruit commuters as part-time guards and that many firms had failed to give the level of assurance that the union was seeking.

### Aberfan fund repaid

The Government agreed to repay £150,000 taken from the Aberfan Disaster Fund 30 years ago. The Wilson Government decided that the fund, set up after a waste tip at the Merthyr Vale Colliery collapsed, killing 116 children and 28 adults in 1966, should pay for removing the two remaining tips. Villagers have long campaigned for the return of the money, which was announced in a Commons written reply from Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary.

### Inquest challenge fails

A High Court appeal to reopen the inquest into the death of the Brixton burglar suspect Wayne Douglas failed yesterday. His family challenged the directions to the jury of Sir Montague Levine, the South London Coroner, after which a verdict of accidental death was returned. Mr Justice Lewis ruled that, although Sir Montague, who has since retired, had not properly directed the jury, it would still have reached the same verdict.

### Tests for drug-drivers

The first survey of drug-driving in Britain is to be launched today by Strathclyde Police to find ways of improving roadside detection. Drivers will be stopped and asked questions and to perform writing, physical and memory exercises. No charges will be pressed. The survey is part of a programme involving two Strathclyde officers who were awarded £7,700 from the Home Office for research into improving training on drug-symptom recognition.

### £300,000 libel award

A former Irish Minister was awarded £300,000 yesterday in a libel case against the *Sunday Independent*. It is the largest libel award ever granted in Ireland. The jury found that in 1992, Eamon Dwyer, a columnist, had accused Proinsias De Rosca, a former member of the IRA, of involvement in or toleration of serious crime. They also found that he had alleged that Mr De Rosca supported anti-Semitism and violent communist oppression.

### Footballer on sex charge

The Bradford City footballer Peter Beagrie appeared before magistrates on Jersey yesterday charged with three offences of indecent assault, allegedly committed while he was a Manchester City player. The 31-year-old winger also faced charges of common assault and of being disorderly. Mr Beagrie denied all the charges, which are alleged to have happened in the early hours of February 25 in two bars on the island. The trial continues.

### Deposit safe from pygmy

Speculation that the body of a pygmy was the cause of an unpleasant smell emanating from a bank safe deposit box was scotched yesterday. Staff at the NatWest branch in the City of London noticed the smell after a flood in May. However, a spokesman said they had been in touch with the owner who had assured them "there is no kind of dead body down there". She declined to disclose the identity of the owner, or the contents of the box.

### Road protesters lose

Anti-road campaigners have failed in their final attempt at the Court of Appeal to stop the "missing link" in the Avon ring road being built. The case has cost the taxpayers tens of thousands of pounds. Andrew Nicholson and Barry McNeeney, who received legal aid, claimed that the multimillion-pound project would cost more in human and economic terms than it would bring in benefits to the people of Bristol.

### R-reg car rush begins

New cars will leave showrooms at the rate of 30 a minute today as the motor industry cashes in on what could be its last August sales bonanza. The Government is expected within weeks to end the system which changes the prefix letter on number plates and opt for a twice-yearly change, in March and September. Sales of R-registration cars this month could reach 490,000, the second highest monthly total on record.

Leading article, page 17

## Hovercraft

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# Hi-tech method enabled team to pinpoint hidden wrecks

Nick Nuttall and Tom Rhodes on a revolutionary approach to underwater exploration in Mediterranean

THE British marine archaeologist Jonathan Adams said yesterday that the discoveries in the Mediterranean outlined by Robert Ballard represented the second great leap forward in the field.

"We have not seen this since the early days of scuba diving in the late 1950s when hundreds of wrecks were found in shallow waters in the Mediterranean."

Mr Adams, from the Centre for Marine Archaeology at the University of Southampton, said the difference between the wrecks discovered by the Ballard team in June and the shallow-water wrecks found over 40 years ago was the condition.

"The shallow-water ones are often broken up by currents and human interference, but these have not been interfered with by any natural or human agency since the day they went down," Mr Adams said.

"For example we can see how the ships are laid out." The greater depths, according to experts, the bet-

ter the preservation of discovered artefacts. Although wooden decks, rigging and upper hulls of the five Roman ships which were found had been destroyed, the timbers buried in the mud were well preserved and the cargoes appeared almost undisturbed.

Mr Adams said he had been astonished at the dexterity of the remotely operated submersible, *Jason*, which had been demonstrated around the Islamic merchant ship. "Around that were some rather nice ceramics including extremely fragile glass artefacts which look like little mosque lamps."

"*Jason* was able to pick these up without breaking them. I could not believe it. I would not have trusted a diver to pick them up by hand let alone a robot," the researcher said.

He said yesterday that the academic community had "thrown down the gauntlet to the treasure hunters". Until now most deep-water excavations have been carried out by

private treasure hunters who, in many cases, have plundered wrecks and ruined their historical interest.

"The treasure hunters, whose interests are completely different from ours, have stated time and again that they are the only people who can deal with these deep water sites which are often in international waters and beyond national governments' control."

"The treasure hunters have said only that they have the expertise and the money," the researcher, who 20 years ago worked on the excavation and recovery of Henry VIII's flagship, the *Mary Rose*, said.

"But we have demonstrated that this is not true. We had four archaeologists, two conservators and six computer scientists and engineers. We have shown that the academic community can do this and can do it bigger and better than the hunters," he added.

He said that instead of priceless artefacts going to the highest bidder, often a private collector, the ones found by the team were destined for a "publicly accessible collection".

The latest finds come after a spate of underwater exploration, which has revealed Blackbeard's ship off North Carolina. Benedict Arnold's gunboats in Lake Champlain and the *A-52*, a still unrecovered Japanese cargo submarine which sank in the South Atlantic, while carrying \$25 million to Hitler's Third Reich, late in the Second World War.

Since the end of the Cold War, previously secret submarine technology has emerged for civilian use. Once classified satellite global positioning systems, computer-enhanced sonar imagery and improved fibre-optic cables, have all been made available to explorers of the deep.

With every new method at his disposal, Mr Ballard says he is now heading for the Black Sea before a trip to the Pacific graveyards of the Battle of Midway, the turning point of the Second World War.



Robert Ballard directs the movements of *Jason*, the submersible robot which found the ancient shipwrecks. Jonathan Adams is seen with his hands on his chin. Below, *Jason* being lowered into the ocean, and some of the 2,000-year-old jugs it found from a former trading ship



## French demand return of historic ship

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE French Government has laid claim to a 17th-century shipwreck salvaged at great public expense by the state of Texas.

France claims that, since *La Belle* was the property of the King when it sank in Matagorda Bay, off Texas, in 1686, it is still French. Its embassy in Washington has written to George W. Bush, the state's Governor, stating that Paris intends to assert its "rightful" legal title to the wreck.

*La Belle* was captained by Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, the aristocrat who claimed Louisiana for

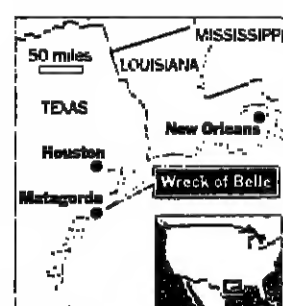
France. It was recovered in 1995 by the Texan administration at a cost of \$5.5 million (£3.5 million).

The French claim is without precedent. Scores of galleons, mainly Spanish, have been recovered this century, yet no claim has been made by a modern Spanish Government to legal ownership of either a wreck or its booty. The British and the Dutch have always let control over "their" wrecks rest with the jurisdictions in which they have been found.

Laurent Meillier, the press attaché at the French Consulate in Houston, said: "I

would just say that it was the property of France when the boat sank in Texas and, historically, it has belonged to France. *La Belle* was the property of the King when La Salle was in Texas... It was just lent to him."

Texas, which has invested as much emotion as money into the recovery of the wreck, is certain to put up a fight. The administration's position is that Louis XIV — a monarch of extravagant gesture — gave the ship to La Salle and, since it was wrecked in Texan waters and La Salle has no descendants, who can assert ownership.



going to say easily or lightly it's not ours any more."

*La Belle* has been described by marine archaeologists as a striking find. The hulk lacks glamour and carries no gold, but materials on board have shed light on the nature of early French forays into the New World. Particularly intriguing is a cache of nearly a million glass beads, for use in trade with the Indians.

Also on board was the skeleton of a man now referred to as Dead Bob. Because the wreck was covered in silt, Dead Bob is in perfect condition, with a large portion of brain intact inside the skull.

## Talented dancer, 10, drowns on school trip

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A TEN-YEAR-OLD girl died yesterday after getting into difficulties while swimming on a school trip to the North Welsh coast. Laura Zielinski, from Tividale, in the West Midlands, was bathing with school friends in choppy water off Shell Island in Caernarfonshire and Merionethshire.

A teacher pulled her unconscious from the sea and she was given artificial respiration on the beach. Attempts to resuscitate her continued as she was airlifted by RAF helicopter to Bangor Hospital. Paediatricians made a final attempt to save her life after she was transferred overnight to the intensive care unit at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool. Her

parents, Lynne and Patrick Zielinski, were at the bedside when the child's life support machine was switched off.

Laura was one of 34 children on the holiday activity trip from Christchurch junior school in Oldbury, West Midlands. The children had been in North Wales since Sunday.

Mrs Zielinski, 42, said last night that her daughter, who was talented at Latin American ballroom dancing, telephoned home on Monday night full of excitement about her day on the beach and in the water. She said: "She was so beautiful, so talented. She died in my arms as I was cradling her. She wanted to be a dancer when she grew up. She danced for England at the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool at Easter. It was the British Open, which

is the entry competition to the world championships and she was in the top 24 in the world."

Bill Thomas, chairman of education at Sandwell Borough Council, said he was satisfied that the swimming party was being properly supervised. He said there were seven staff members from the primary school, including Dave Derricott, the head teacher, looking after the children.

Mr Thomas said: "We are very distressed by the incident. From our initial inquiries we are satisfied that the swimming session was properly staffed and supervised. Mr Derricott is extremely experienced in taking parties of young people away and has been organising this type of trip for years. He will be very, very upset."



Laura Zielinski: in top 24

## Dons back museum plan in face of official opposition

BY DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE dons voted five to one yesterday to approve plans for a "concrete box" extension to the historic facade of the Fitzwilliam Museum.

However, English Heritage has written to the Fitzwilliam Museum, saying that its historical buildings and areas advisory committee cannot approve the plans, which puts the project in renewed jeopardy. Senior members of the university voted by 1,021 to 202 in

favour of the plans to alter the design of architect George Basevi, widely acknowledged as the finest classical museum in Britain after the British Museum. The project has met fierce opposition from neighbouring Peterhouse College, where academics do not relish the prospect of a "concrete box" on their horizon.

Sir John Meurig Thomas, Master of Peterhouse, said: "Even though we have lost this battle, we can still win the war. The university council have said they will accept the

proposals, conditional not only upon the necessary fundraising but also on approval by English Heritage and the requisite planning authorities."

Duncan Robinson, the museum's director, said: "The vote means the university can now proceed to submit a planning application. It is true that English Heritage have not blessed the plans and we realise that, as with any project, you gain some support and you encounter some criticism."

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# The Love

## Queen to

Mr Straw told the family that despite his efforts it had not been possible to get any of them to serve.



**Umberto Eco and Doris Lessing.**

military aircraft. The salary of the crew will also be paid out of the royal travel budget.

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Hoots in the  
Lords at a call  
for his second  
of eagle

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# The Avebury Four lose all their appeal

Michael Hornsby on a gang which may be going away for a long time

SIR LUDOVIC KENNEDY has been driven to reconsider his opposition to the death penalty by the antisocial conduct of four intruders in his Wiltshire garden. The offenders have even tempted the veteran campaigner against injustice to reach for a shotgun himself.

They are four peacocks who are popular among tourists visiting the historic village of Avebury but who have lost all their appeal among residents. The Avebury Four's crimes include destroying flower beds, pecking holes in cottage roofs and desecrating the cemetery. The parish council is now considering a sentence of banishment.

"The peacocks are a damned nuisance," Sir Ludovic, 78, said yesterday. "They come into the garden and eat our flowers and wild strawberries."

"There have been times when I felt like shooting them all, though of course one would never do such a thing."

Only yesterday morning, Sir Ludovic said, his wife, the former ballerina Moira Shearer, had to shoot three of the birds away. "We like to leave our gate open, but that means the peacocks can easily come in. In any case, they can fly over the gate because their wings have not been clipped."

The birds live at the 16th-century Avebury Manor, which is owned by the National Trust. Its area manager, David Riddle, said: "Clipping their wings would not stop them wandering off, but it would stop them roosting in trees where they can keep out of the way of flocks. They have always lived free and cannot be housed."

The Trust says that it is very reluctant to remove the peacocks, but it has written to the parish council to say that it would be prepared to consider such a remedy "if the problems experienced have become intolerable".

That seems to be the case. Peggy Blake, the churchwarden, said: "The peacocks are undoubtedly beautiful birds, and the tourists like them, but they have become a nuisance. They pull the thatch out of cottage roofs and take flowers laid on gravesides."

Sir Ludovic's neighbour, Lady Julia Beale, said: "They are a terrible nuisance."

Gavin Topham, manager of Stones Restaurant in the village, added: "They are not very welcome here. We have a few flowerpots that stand just outside the restaurant and it got to the stage where the birds would devour the flowers almost straight after we'd planted them."

"We seem to have solved the problem now. We began running out and flapping our arms, shouting and chasing them off as soon as we spotted them re-appearing outside. The guests were sometimes a bit startled by this."

Avebury has a population of just 630, but attracts thousands of visitors a year to its prehistoric stone circles, which rival Stonehenge in archaeological importance. Many of the visitors go on to the gardens of the manor, where the peacocks have long been an attraction.

A spokesman for Wiltshire's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: "Eating garden flowers isn't surprising behaviour. They'll eat a very wide range of foods."

"They are also quite a size, so their physically mowing through a gardener's flowerbeds is likely to result in substantial damage."

John Cronk, the council chairman, identified a further problem: "It is not just the damage to gardens. They are large birds, with a flying range of up to a quarter of a mile, and their droppings stink to high heaven."

"The Trust has offered to pay compensation for any damage caused if the peacocks are allowed to stay, but I think the view will be that the birds must go. This is not a new problem. Residents have been complaining about the peacocks for years. Visitors may like the birds, but if we are not careful there is a danger in a place like Avebury of having greater regard for the needs of tourists than for the people who actually live here."



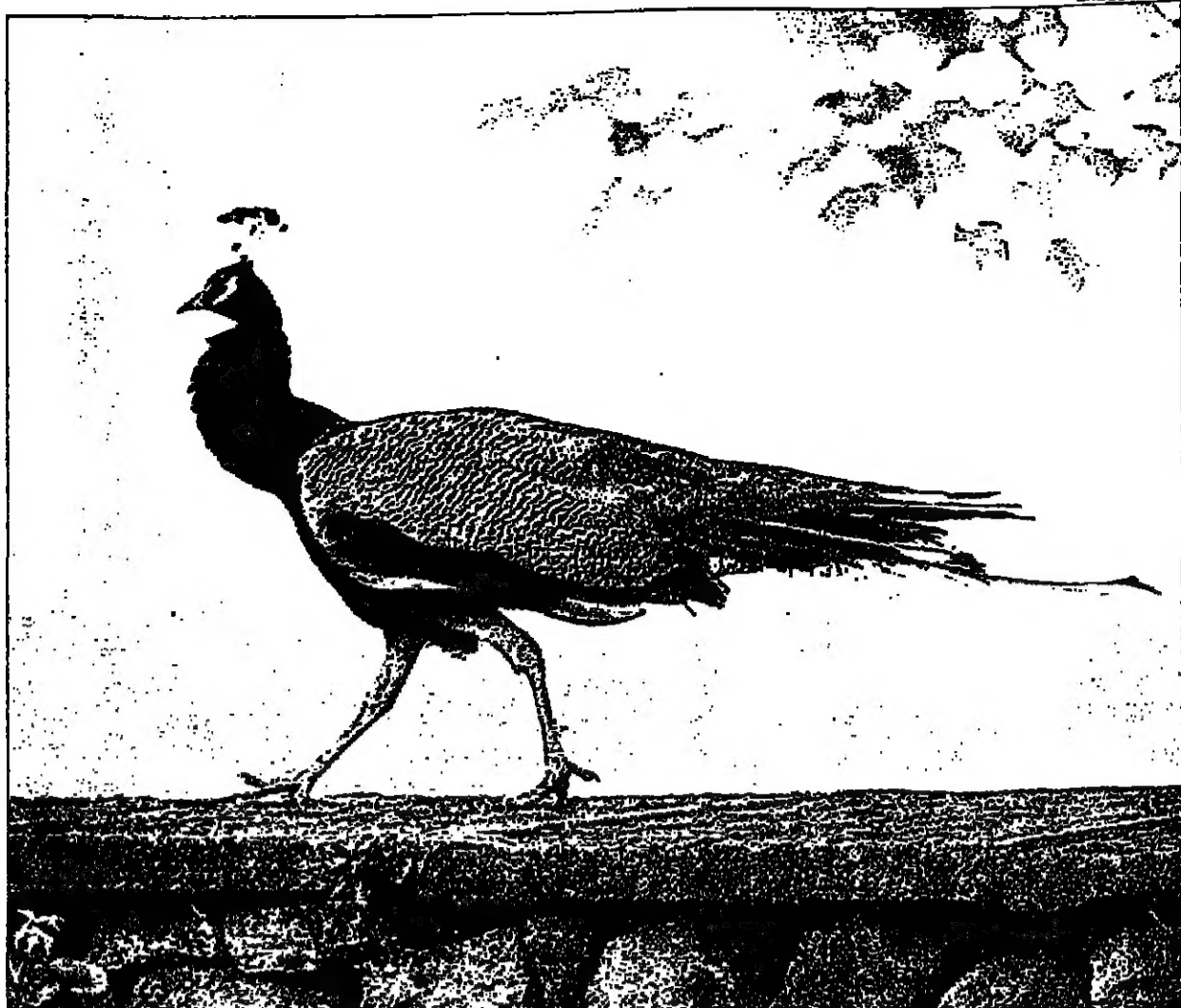
No more flying visits: villagers in historic Avebury may banish the birds, despite their popular appeal

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One of the wild ones: the peacocks are accused of destroying flower beds and pecking holes in cottage roofs

## FROM CELLNET. HELP FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE ALWAYS ON THE PHONE.



## Hoots in the Lords at call for hit squad of eagle owls

By Robin Young

THE recent appearance of a rare eagle owl on the roof of St Paul's Cathedral prompted calls for an encore, and some hoots of laughter, in the House of Lords yesterday.

The former Conservative Scottish Secretary, Lord Campbell of Croy, urged that more owls should be set to work on getting rid of pigeons and grey squirrels. Lord Campbell suggested that ministers should "encourage experiments" in selected areas and said that the St Paul's owl had done "a very good job in killing hordes of pigeons".

This, he added, was despite the fact that the owl, which has since died of a bacterial infection, was an "alien and an escaped prisoner". He said there would be no risk to red squirrels, a threatened and protected species, as they did not live in the same areas as greys.

"So it would not matter if the owl were colour blind," he added cheerily. He saw a further advantage in that he had heard that eagle owls attacked small dogs. That would discourage dog ownership in the selected areas and help to keep pavements clean.

Before his imagination took further flight, Baroness Hayman, a junior Environment Minister, told him: "Encouraging the use of non-native species for vermin control would be inappropriate because of the risk of escape into the wider environment." She added that the last confirmed sighting of a wild

eagle owl, "known as the rotweiler of the avian world", in Britain had been in 1883 in Argyll. Lord Gainford, a Conservative, said that the owl's return to that area could help to get rid of hooded crows.

The minister said that using birds of prey to scare pigeons in some urban areas was allowed under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, but it was hard to stop them eating red squirrels, domestic pets, racing pigeons and grouse.

Lady Hayman then said that the Government was backing research into making grey squirrels sterile by vaccinating their food. Baroness Gardner of Parkes complained about squirrels eating apricots from a tree in her garden in central London. Lady Hayman suggested that she consult the two men from Newton Abbot, Devon, who had reportedly scared off squirrels by hooting at night, each believing that the other was an owl. A spokesman for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday that all raptors were themselves under threat and pointed out that programmes to reintroduce species such as the eagle owl were "not a simple business". A spokesman said: "It requires years of patient work and dedicated application. Sometimes the casual introduction of predators has had uncontrollable and devastating consequences that were quite unforeseen."



The eagle owl

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# Parents who go ga-ga are doing junior a favour

Baby talk makes sense in any language, say the scientists who listened with mother. Nigel Hawkes reports

THE urge that leads otherwise sensible people to talk apparent gibberish to babies was given an intellectual explanation yesterday. New parents who suddenly find themselves going ga-ga are in fact emphasising vowel sounds instinctively, to provide vital instructions about the building blocks of language.

Research by an international team found that the exaggerated, draw-out form of speech called "parentese" follows the same rules in English, Russian and Swedish.

It is not simply babble or affectionate endearments, but near-normal language, spoken slowly in sing-song style, with key sounds stretched out to make

comprehension easier. Hello becomes hee-loo, with a rising intonation at the end. Sometimes syllables are repeated for emphasis ("doggie-woggie") or words enriched by extra vowel sounds ("baa-lamb"). By the age of 20 weeks, the baby's own babbling contains the same vowel sounds.

The team from America, Sweden and Russia was led by the American neuroscientist Dr Patricia Kuhl, of the University of Washington in Seattle. Their results, published in *Science*, show that baby talk is characterised by over-articulation that exaggerates

sounds contained within words. Dr Kuhl says: "In normal, everyday speech, adults generally race along at a very fast pace. But we know it is easier to understand speakers when they stretch out sounds."

"That's why we tend to speak more slowly and carefully when we talk to strangers. We also do this unconsciously with babies, giving them an improved verbal signal they can capitalise on."

"When women across three different cultures, speaking three different languages, show the same pattern when speaking to

their infants, biology is telling us something about its necessity and value to their babies," she says.

The study examined mothers, but there was no reason to suppose that fathers behaved any differently — other studies had shown they also use parentese. Mothers spend more time with babies than fathers, so it made sense to study them. Ten women from each of the three countries were recorded talking to their babies, who were between two and five months old. The mothers were asked to talk normally and include target words containing

three vowel sounds common to all three languages: "ee", "ah" and "oo". The women were later recorded talking to adults.

The recordings were then analysed by spectrograph. The team found that in all three languages, mothers talking to their babies produced exaggerated versions of the vowel sounds, emphasising features that distinguished them from other vowel sounds. This was true of all 30 mothers across the three languages.

The exaggerated sounds allowed the mothers to produce a greater variety of vowel sounds

without overlapping other vowels. Dr Kuhl says. Parentese provides the babies with "essential nuggets" of information about language that their brains quickly absorb. After the babies start to use the same vowel sounds — pitched at a higher level because their vocal tracts are smaller — they become expert in reproducing the special sounds of their own native tongue and lose other skills which are not relevant.

Earlier work by other researchers has shown that Japanese babies can distinguish "f" from "r", but lose the knack because it is

not necessary in Japanese. The Kuhl team, which included researchers from the Early Intervention Institute in St Petersburg and from Stockholm University, conclude: "Language input to infants has culturally universal characteristics designed to promote language learning."

Anybody handed a baby tends to use parentese, Dr Kuhl says. "Carers, younger brothers and sisters, and even college students who were handed a baby have been observed using parentese. Parents don't have to work hard at this. Just by talking and communicating with their infants, they are playing a vital role without being aware of it."

## Mother's joy at baby born to make history

By Russell Jenkins

A MOTHER told yesterday of her joy at being able to cuddle the baby who made medical history and survived pioneering surgery for a life-threatening condition.

Vickie Harris cradled her son, Dylan, while he slept in his Winnie the Pooh romper suit as she spoke of her delight at the new medical techniques which had enabled doctors to save him.

Dylan was just three days old when Paul May, a consultant neurosurgeon at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, cut open a flap in his head to relieve life-threatening pressure from a blood clot developing between his brain and skull.

Dylan's diagnosis, made at 30 weeks while in the womb, was the earliest made for the condition. He now has every chance of growing up to lead a normal life.

Mrs Harris, 28, a chef from Cloughton, near Birkenhead, who lost her first child in a miscarriage 20 months ago, said: "We did not care if he was brain-damaged, paralysed down one side. We just wanted him to live so much."

"When I first saw him after the operation, he was in an incubator and I couldn't hold him. I was able to put my hand in and touch him. It was



A scan of Dylan in the womb, which showed up the blood clot in the skull which could have killed him

a brilliant feeling. I think he is a miracle, a little fighter. He has just never given up on life all the way through. There were some days when we were ready to give up but he would never let us."

Her husband, David, 29, added: "We were told by Mr May that he might not come through the operation. We had that to worry about. We were made up when he did. It was a miracle."

Dylan, now six weeks old and weighing 6lb 14oz, is fit and well, feeding and sleeping normally, and has passed his first hearing and mobility tests. Ross Welch, consultant obstetrician at Arrowe Park Hospital, Upton, Birkenhead, is guarded about the baby's future but the early signs are

good in a condition that once led to an early death or left the victim hopelessly disabled.

Dylan's condition was spotted when a routine ultrasound scan showed the signs of a blood clot so rare that there have been only a handful of cases, mostly in the South Pacific region. "We were devastated," said Mrs Harris.

"I first thought, 'Why me? Why is he picking on me, especially after the last pregnancy?' The surgeons were totally honest with us and warned us he could be paralysed. At 30 weeks I had felt his heart beat. So long as he was alive."

Mr Harris said that the couple could have coped with any disability; all that mattered was that their child

was born alive. "We could not have coped with losing him," he said.

There has been only one documented case of such a condition being identified in the womb, much later, to a couple with haemophilic tendencies, said Mr Welch. "This is the first antenatal diagnosis in a low-risk case," he said.

Both surgeon and obstetrician were able to confirm the diagnosis against the graphic results of an MRI scan (magnetic resonance imaging). It showed that Dylan's head was much larger than normal due to the bleeding. The baby was delivered by Caesarean section at 34 weeks to prevent further brain damage.

Dylan's birth went smoothly but his haemoglobin count was dangerously low and his head abnormally large. Mr May said: "I cut a window to the brain out of the skull."

"At that age the skull is so thin you can cut it with a pair of scissors. I opened up a small area three or four centimetres square, opened up and removed the blood clot, taking the pressure off the skull."

"It is very difficult in a case like this, where there is so much development and so much life ahead of Dylan, to be exactly sure what his future will be. At this stage he is a normal baby."



David and Vickie Harris hug their baby, Dylan. Pioneering surgery saved him

## Leukaemia death rate higher near atomic sites

By Ian Murray

DEATHS from childhood leukaemia are higher than expected in areas around landlocked nuclear sites, researchers have discovered.

The study, published in a letter today in the *British Medical Journal*, covered areas of Oxfordshire and Berkshire around the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston, the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell and the Royal Ordnance factory at Burghfield.

The letter, from Chris Busby of the environmental group Green Audit (Wales), says radioactive gases and effluent legally released into the air and the Thames and Kennet have become concentrated in the river valleys where south Oxfordshire and Newbury lie.

Dr Busby says figures from the Office for National Statistics show that leukaemia deaths were roughly double the expected average. In south Oxfordshire 12 children died in the 15 years from 1981 to 1995 instead of a predicted five and in Newbury there were 11 deaths rather than six.

### CORRECTIONS

□ Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy's criticism of bad practice among estate agents was not (contrary to a report, July 28) directed at members of the National Association of Estate Agents, of which he is chief executive.

□ The Captain Pugwash deal (report, June 28) is between John Cary Films (not John Ryan) and the Britt Allcroft Company, and its likely production cost is £1.5 million. Britt Allcroft does not own Thomas the Tank Engine.

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\* Typical APR for purchases, based on a bank of £1,000.

\*\* Typical APR for purchases, based on a bank of £2,000.

\*\*\* Typical APR for purchases, based on a bank of £3,000.

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£ 25,000+	5.65	4.52	5.51	4.41
£ 10,000+	5.25	4.20	5.13	4.10
Below £10,000	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40

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£ 5,000+	3.40	2.72	3.35	2.88
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£ 5,000+	3.65	2.92	3.59	2.87
Below £5,000	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40

Telesavings	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	6.75	5.40
£ 50,000+	6.75	5.40
£ 25,000+	6.60	5.28
£ 10,000+	6.30	5.04
£ 5,000+	5.95	4.76

Instant Gold Savings	Annual Option		Quarterly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£50,000+	5.55	4.44	5.44	4.35
£25,000+	5.30	4.24	5.20	4.16
£10,000+	4.90	3.92	4.81	3.85
£ 2,500+	4.70	3.76	4.62	3.70
£ 1+	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.40

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£ 50,000+	5.94	4.67
£ 25,000+	5.51	4.41
£ 10,000+	5.13	4.10
Below £10,000	3.35	2.60

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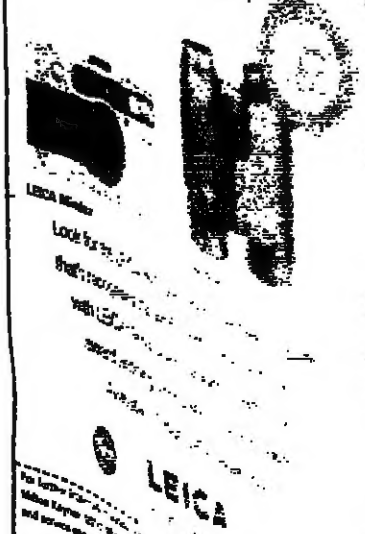
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A-level class standards 'v' for a decade

Boy set fire to school in bid to delay exams

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## A-level classics standards 'worst for a decade'

A-LEVEL standards in the subject classical civilisation have fallen to their lowest point in ten years, according to an examiner who believes that many of the 350 candidates he marked this summer deserved minus scores.

Jim Brennan, an A-level examiner since 1986, said this year's papers in his subject were appalling, with countless basic errors in spelling, punctuation and data. Mr Brennan, who recently retired as senior classics master at Dauntsey's School, near Devizes, Wiltshire, said his evidence did not tally with the 15 successive annual rises in A-level grades. He spoke out less than two weeks before this year's students receive their results, on August 14.

The Government's own inquiry into standards was inconclusive in most subjects, largely because of the lack of records kept by examination boards. Classical civilisation, A-level was introduced in the early 1980s to combine the history and literature of ancient Rome and Greece, without learning the languages. In 350 scripts for the paper on the Romans, which accounts for half the final mark, many candidates failed to spell correctly *Aeneid* or *Caesar*. Candidates were required to write four essays from a choice of 25 in three hours. Just six scored more than 70 per cent, traditionally the threshold for an A grade, but Mr Brennan is worried the true picture will be concealed on August 14.

Writing in *The Times* today, he says: "The board for which

**An examiner tells David Charter that many candidates in this year's tests deserved minus marks for submitting papers riddled with basic errors in punctuation and spelling**

I mark does not permit penalties for errors in spelling and punctuation. If it did, many candidates would have received a minus mark.

"The majority of them [the candidates] will be saying to universities and, eventually, employers, that they have an A level in classics, which sounds quite impressive. Yet almost all those whose papers I read are as close to illiterate as they can be."

The most disturbing mistakes were in basic English. Separate was often written as *seprit*, and to, too and two were constantly confused. Almost all candidates commonly used *would of*, confused *there* and *their*, and did not know that nouns ending in *y* took *ies* in the plural.

Yet while up to five marks are awarded at GCSE for spelling, punctuation and grammar, none can be lost for illiteracy at A level. "Candidates can write a perfect paper in terms of content, perfectly spelt, and candidate B, equally good in content but with hundreds of mistakes, would get the same mark."

Mr Brennan's years of marking lead him to believe that teachers are not correcting homework. "This is not just pedantry," he said. "There are so many mistakes that should have been ironed out

when they were nine years old." He added: "The real solution lies with the teachers and how much time they are prepared to give to correcting their pupils' essays."

Teachers yesterday called for a weekly service to replace compulsory daily prayers to safeguard the quality of worship in schools. An overwhelming vote by the Professional Association of Teachers echoed the view of a conference of head teachers in May that the law requiring a daily act of collective worship was hypocritical and impractical. According to school inspectors, 90 per cent of primary schools but just 25 per cent of secondary schools obeyed the law last year.

Education, page 32



Simon Grossmith and Nutty, who endured having its teeth painted by its young owner without raising a paw

## 'Oscar' for autistic boy's cat in a million

A CAT that has forged a special link with its young autistic owner, enduring having its teeth painted and being carted around relentlessly, has won the feline equivalent of an Oscar.

Nutty, a year-old ginger tom, has never protested at the attention lavished on it by Simon Grossmith, 5, who has also bathed his pet and taken it for walks in his rucksack. Nutty's patience has brought it a "Golden Arthur", a trophy and £1,000.

Simon's mother, Nicola, of Reigate, Surrey, said: "This little ginger cat seems to be able to establish a link with Simon that people are unable to achieve. He's a cat in a million."

Another of the 14 regional finalists, Prudence, a Persian, saved its owner's life by signalling with its paw that the gas cooker had been left on. The owner's dogs were already unconscious from the leaking gas.

The judges included Patrick Moore, the astronomer, and Wendy Turner, the television presenter.

## Boy set fire to school in bid to delay exams

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged 15 was so terrified of taking GCSEs that he started a major fire at his school so that the examinations would be postponed, a court was told yesterday.

Daniel Welsh admitted destroying the library at Rhyl High School, Denbighshire, because he did not want to disappoint his parents by scoring low grades. He confessed his moment of "complete lunacy" to police five days after the £26,000 blaze, and the school allowed him back to take his GCSEs this summer.

Welsh will receive his results later this month, after he starts a two-year sentence in a detention centre. Mr Justice Curtis said at Chester Crown Court that the incident was "one of the most serious in the book".

The boy, now 16, from Chester, told his mother on March 8 that he was staying with friends, but instead caught a late-night train from Chester to Prestatyn. He broke into the school and started fires by piling up books, papers, chairs and shelves.

Welsh said he was desperate to make his parents feel proud of him and, because he thought he was not going to do very well in his examinations, hoped to have them put off for

a year. He added that he was very sorry for the damage and the pain he had caused his mother and father.

Tammi Barton, for Welsh, described the case as "sad but serious". She said he had previously enjoyed an exemplary character. References handed to the judge included a letter from the school's deputy head, teacher, who emphasised that the incident was totally out of character.

Miss Barton said Welsh felt genuine shame and remorse for what he had done. "This hare-brained idea was an effort to disrupt exams which he thought he was underprepared to take. He was so desperate to avoid disappointing his parents," she added. "This was an isolated episode of complete lunacy from a young man under a great deal of strain."

Dennis Potter, for the prosecution, told the court that on March 8 this year, police arrived at Rhyl High School and discovered flames coming from the library area. A broken window was spotted in the library block and other windows were found smashed elsewhere in the school after the fire had been put out. Welsh had attempted to set fire to a school canteen.

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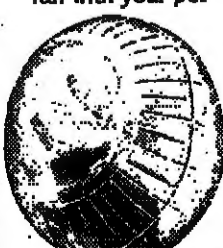


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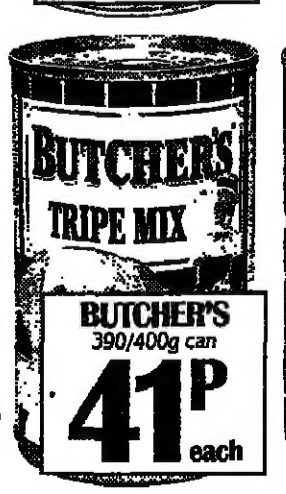
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# Lord Simon bound by the law, the City and ministerial rules

THE share dealings of Lord Simon of Highbury are bound by the rules of both the City and Whitehall as well as being subject, like all share trading, to criminal law.

As the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, the former BP chairman must follow a code of conduct aimed at preventing actual or potential conflicts of interest between his role in Government and his status as a share owner. That bars him from taking part in government decisions that could affect the price of his shares in BP or any other company.

Lord Simon, who gave up his £241,000 salary to become an unpaid member of the Government, was prompted by the Ministerial Code to put his non-BP shareholdings into a blind trust, over which he has no control. It also led to his decision not to sell or deal in any BP shares until January at the earliest. By then, the reasoning goes, he will have been away from the company for long enough to be unaware of its detailed plans and any impact that government action might have on them.

The Permanent Secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry and Sir Robin Butler, head of the Civil Service, agreed that this arrangement conformed to the guidelines. When it is reviewed in January, Lord Simon could opt to put the BP shares over which he already has

**Polly Newton and Sarah Cunningham**  
on the difficult switch from business to government office

control in a blind trust. Alternatively he could ask permission from the Permanent Secretary and Sir Robin to sell some shares.

Lord Simon's predicament has been made more awkward by a strong rise in the BP share price that has increased the value of his shareholding by more than £200,000 since he reached the agreement over what to do with it in May.

A significant proportion of his shares are being held for him by BP in a Jersey-based trust under the company's long-term performance plan, which rewards directors with shares if the company meets certain targets.

He will not be able to deal in any of those until the first tranche is released in May next year. If he then sells them he will have to pay taxes on them at British rates.

Lord Simon has a total of 247,091 shares in BP, at present worth about £2.06 million, including those in

being held for him in the Jersey trust. When he was chairman of BP, his activities were covered by the Stock Exchange's "Yellow Book", which says that directors cannot sell or trade their company shares in the gap between the end of one trading period and publication of the company's results for that period.

Now that he is no longer a director of the company, he is treated by the City like any other shareholder, except that — according to the DTI — if he sells his holding, he is at greater risk of breaking the law on insider trading, as enshrined in the 1993 Criminal Justice Act.

A spokesman for the department said yesterday that Lord Simon's particular areas of responsibility had been allocated in accordance with the Ministerial Code. He is the UK's representative on the European Union's Internal Market Council, which considers all issues relating to the single market. When the UK takes over the presidency of the European Commission next year, he will become chairman of the council.

The DTI spokesman said: "Issues that will relate to BP will not come up at the Internal Market Council. If there is a conflict of interest — if BP is going to be on the agenda — he will not go."

"He is dealing with issues that are not likely to affect BP, but where they do, or where they might, he will



not participate. We could not be clearer."

Lord Simon is also a member of the Foreign Office task force on preparing the UK for the presidency of the European Commission. He chairs the Department of Trade and Industry's competitiveness task force, and sits on the Cabinet sub-committee on Europe and on economic affairs.

He is not the first shareholder to face a potential conflict of interest by entering the DTI. When Michael Heseltine was in Government, his shares in Haymarket Publishing were put into a blind trust.

The Tories argue that the two situations were not comparable. A Tory spokesman said yesterday: "There is a difference between a book publishing house in a highly competitive market, where he was not the minister for book publishing, and a market that is regulated by the DTI... BP is a creature of Government."

He said the same argument applied to former Trade and Industry Secretary Paul Channon, who had a major shareholding in Guinness.

Lord Simon, page 16  
Leading article, page 17

## The Tories are ignoring the main concern

**RIDDELL ON POLITICS**

Goodbye Cabinet government. Welcome the Blair presidency. The Ministerial Code — the new and expanded version of *Questions of Procedure for Ministers* — is the most revolutionary publication produced by the Government since the election. It sets out in a formal code of conduct, to be obeyed by all ministers, the biggest centralisation of power seen in Whitehall in peacetime.

All the familiar textbooks about the Cabinet system will have to be rewritten. The idea that heads of department have an independent standing has been torn up. The Ministerial Code is a remarkably frank document.

The section on "Ministers and the Presentation of Policy" has been totally rewritten. In the previous version, there is merely a reference to the organisation of a press conference. Now, this has been supplemented by a section on co-ordination of government policy.

This states bluntly that "in order to ensure the effective presentation of government policy, all major interviews and media appearances, both print and broadcast, should be agreed with the No 10 Press Office before any commitments are entered into. The policy content of all major speeches, press releases, and new policy initiatives should be cleared in good time with the No 10 Private Office: the timing and form of announcements should be cleared with the No 10 Press Office. Each department should keep a record of media contacts by both ministers and officials."

Co-ordination of government strategy and its implementation is desirable, indeed overdue — fully justifying Peter Mandelson's ministerial role, as well as his personal role as prime ministerial confidant. Similarly, co-ordinating announcements via the Downing Street Press Office to prevent clashes is sensible but this paragraph borders on obsessive, and unacceptable, centralised control. Either a Prime Minister trusts those whom he appoints to min-

isterial office, or he does not.

Downing Street officials were last night unapologetic about the change. "It is the strategic and message discipline we operated in Opposition as translated to Government." But Government is different from Opposition, both constitutionally and politically. So much for Cabinet ministers being independent heads of departments with their own responsibilities. Now they have to check in with Downing Street if they want to talk to the press, and they have to put on record even having a quiet drink with a journalist.

Moreover, such centralisation will, in practice, be impossible to sustain. If Government is to work, ministers have to be allowed to get on with their allotted responsibilities without all the time having to check in with Downing Street. No Prime Minister's Office can, or should, micro-manage the activities of nearly one hundred ministers. The new code reinforces the centralised practice of the new Government, though this is combined with Tony Blair's personal preference for focusing on a few important issues. There is often little collective discussion by the Cabinet, even of major political matters.

These questions are far more important than the current obsessive interest in the shareholdings of Lord Simon of Highbury, the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe. His defence in *The Times* today is powerful and convincing. The main result will be to make successful businessmen even more sceptical of politicians. Instead of engaging in the type of popular scandal chasing of which they often accused Labour, the Tories should be concentrating on the constitutional upheaval in Whitehall, and the creation of the Blair presidency.

PETER RIDDELL

## BP shareholding set to increase by 40,000

BY ANDREW PIERCE

LORD SIMON stands to receive a further tranche of up to 40,000 BP shares in an offshore trust worth up to £330,000 next year.

The revelation will fuel the political row over the executive share scheme managed by a Jersey-based trust. The final number of shares paid into the trust, which will depend on the company's performance this year, will not be known until the next annual report.

But BP confirmed last night it could be as high as 40,000 shares, which are trading at £8.37 at yesterday's prices. Last year the trust acquired 587,000 of the £2.15 million BP shares he retained when he resigned as chairman.

The controversy has cast doubt over the surprise appointment of Lord Simon to the Government, which was hailed as a coup for Tony Blair, emphasising Labour's new relationship with the business community.

The unpaid ministerial job for Lord Simon was confirmed on May 8 one week after the election. But the Tories, who were seething that such a high-powered figure as the former managing director and chairman of BP could join a Labour Government, were given a chance to exact their revenge two months later.

They pounced on July 8 when it was disclosed that Lord Simon had not disclosed his £2.15 million of BP shares in the Lords register of inter-

ests. While he was perfectly within his rights not to do so was seen as a tactical blunder.

The Tories had to look only as far as the BP annual report to see the words of Lord Simon, who declared as chairman of the company's trade performance during the first five weeks of the second quarter of the year. Lord Simon decided not to trade the shares and he will review his position on January 1.

But this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Tories, who finally had a release for their pent-up fury after months of battering from Labour on charges of sleaze. John Redwood, trade and industry spokesman, referred it to the Cabinet Office. The following day Sir Robin Butler, the

dispose of his shares in BP because he would have laid himself open to charges of insider dealing. Whitehall officials argued that because of his position as chairman of BP he had inside knowledge of the company's trade performance during the first five weeks of the second quarter of the year. Lord Simon decided not to trade the shares and he will review his position on January 1.

But this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Tories, who finally had a release for their pent-up fury after months of battering from Labour on charges of sleaze. John Redwood, trade and industry spokesman, referred it to the Cabinet Office. The following day Sir Robin Butler, the

Cabinet Secretary, cleared Lord Simon of any breach of ministerial rules.

But the difficulties deepened for Lord Simon when *The Times* disclosed on July 12 that he had acquired almost £1 million of his holding through an offshore trust fund. By buying and acquiring shares through the Jersey trust in 1996 BP will potentially offset capital gains tax if the shares have risen in value when they pass to him at the end of the executive reward scheme.

On July 15 it emerged that Lord Simon, whose brief excludes matters which can relate to BP, had answered written questions in the House of Lords on the chemical industry the previous month. The Tories revealed on July

18 that Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, had written to Mr Redwood on July 5 to confirm that Lord Simon had put his non-BP investments in a blind trust. But Mrs Beckett was misinformed. The trust was not yet in place when she wrote the letter.

The DTI confirmed on July 19 that Lord Simon had signed a memorandum approving a European action plan which included gas liberalisation and a common tax regime for energy production. The Tories argued that both subjects impinged on BP.

There was further embarrassment at the weekend when it was shown that the value of the holding had risen by more than £225,000.

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# Israelis swoop on suspected Islamic militants

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI security forces yesterday raided areas of the West Bank under their control to arrest suspected Islamic extremists after the suicide bombings in Jerusalem's market which left 15 people dead.

Soldiers and police arrested dozens of Palestinians, including the relatives of the two men thought to have been the bombers.

The military wing of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The men, both in their twenties, came from a village near Hebron, on the West Bank. They had disappeared more than a year ago after being put on Israel's wanted list of suspected terrorists.

As well as arresting Hamas members, Israel has cut funding to the Palestinian Authority and imposed an indefinite closure on the West Bank and

Gaza Strip. An arrest warrant was also issued for Ghazi Jabali, the Palestinian police chief, for allegedly encouraging attacks on Jewish settlers. This was the latest stage in a dispute which began two weeks ago when Israeli troops arrested several Palestinian policemen who they said were about to open fire on a Jewish settlement near the West Bank town of Nablus.

The decision was announced as Israelis began burying the dead. Hospitals reported that 58 injured people remained in their care.

Palestinian officials described Israel's response as inflammatory. The officials claimed they had already begun their own operation against Muslim militants in the Gaza Strip and gave a warning to Israel against entering Palestinian self-rule areas to arrest suspects.



Relatives of Sami Malka, 44, a victim of Wednesday's bombing, mourn while an ultra-Orthodox Jew says a prayer at the site of the attack

David Bar-Ilan, an adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, defended the stand taken by the Cabinet. He said Israel reserved the right to take action because the Palestinian Authority was not doing the job itself. Mr Bar-Ilan cited the 1976 Entebbe raid, when Israel rescued hostages held by hijackers in Uganda, as a precedent. "The fight against terrorism is universal and the

Americans have decided that they will not accept any sovereignty when pursuing terrorists that have killed Americans. This is the way things must be done, if the governments in the countries where terrorists operate are not willing to do anything against them."

However, Jibril Rajoub, the Palestinian security chief, said Mr Netanyahu should not expect any mass arrests of

Hamas members by the Palestinian police. His officers would arrest only those genuinely suspected of criminal activity, he said.

He condemned the suicide bombings, but added that the Israeli Government must accept some of the blame because of its support for Jewish settlements and other acts of provocation against the Palestinians.

Mr Netanyahu told Dennis

Ross, the US special envoy, yesterday that Israel had fulfilled its commitments under the peace accords.

Washington: Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, returned for emergency meetings in Washington last night, demanding security guarantees from Yasser Arafat as the United States attempted to bring momentum to an otherwise hobbled Middle East peace process (Tom

Rhodes writes). Mrs Albright, who has not visited the Middle East since her appointment, found herself at the centre of criticism over lack of US involvement in a process mainly driven by Washington.

"We must not allow terror to succeed in its aim of killing our hope and our search for peace," she said. "But at the moment the focus of all those committed to peace must be squarely on security."

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Smuggled migrants marooned

Athens: Hundreds of mainly Kurdish illegal immigrants stranded on a ship that suffered a power failure in the Aegean Sea told Greek authorities yesterday that they paid \$2,000 (£1,234) each to be smuggled from Turkey to Italy.

Greek authorities said the Ukrainian-registered *Sohol* was carrying 303 illegal aliens, including 26 children and 30 babies. The three Ukrainian crew left the ship, apparently to fetch food, but never returned. (Reuters)

### Holocaust plea

New York: Alfred Defago, the Swiss Ambassador to America, has written to a federal judge in Brooklyn urging him to throw out a class action lawsuit brought by Jewish organisations to force Swiss banks to surrender assets belonging to Holocaust victims (Junko Varadarajan writes). He said the suit would interfere with "voluntary" efforts in Switzerland to account for the funds. Hearings in the case began yesterday.

### £2m damages

Hong Kong: Kristian Phillips, 47, an American pianist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, who suffered damage to his brain and nervous system when he inhaled fumes from Diazinon, a pesticide, at the Academy for Performing Arts was awarded almost £2 million damages and £8 million costs. Vibu-Geigy (Hong Kong) Limited must pay the biggest share.

### Pot cropper

Los Angeles: Todd McCormick, 27, a marijuana millionaire, was jailed pending trial after police found more than 4,000 cannabis plants valued at £12.5 million in a raid on his castle (Giles Whittell writes). It was the biggest marijuana "bust" in the city's history, but activists said the drug was for medical use.

## Jerusalem market vendors back at work in shadow of death

By ROSS DUNN

ISRAELI resilience was on display yesterday in the open market in Jerusalem. Less than 24 hours after two suicide bombers killed 15 Israelis in the Mahane Yehuda, stall owners resumed trading.

Although the patrons might not have been as numerous as before, many vendors were confident that sales would return to normal.

Still, the anger could not be

contained. One shopkeeper cried: "Where are we, where are we that this could happen?"

Another shouted: "What are the Palestinians doing here? We are the Palestinians, we have lived here for generations. What do they want from us? Let them go to Jordan, to Syria."

The early reopening of the market was due to the efforts of employees who worked through the night to clear away debris from the

blasts. However, not all the work was finished in time. Some shopkeepers could be seen still sorting through the shambles of their establishments, while electricians worked to reconnect power lines.

One vendor said he expected to be operating in about a week. He was receiving government support but questioned whether increased security would prevent more terrorist attacks. "I don't know if it will

help, because you know, they [the Palestinians] look like us," he said.

The security forces obviously felt they could make a difference. Hundreds of police and soldiers were stationed in and around the area, while government officials visited the site to assess the full extent of the damage. The officials walked along pedestrian lanes, crowded with customers and curious onlookers.

Among the visitors was Yaakov

Neeman, the Finance Minister, who said he was there to assess "the humanitarian problems of people who were injured, people who had suffered, businesses which have financial problems, people who have tremendous problems of survival".

He promised: "We will deal with it immediately."

Ramallah: The Palestinian Legislative Council yesterday gave Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Au-

thority President, one month to dissolve his Cabinet and appoint a new one after a corruption inquiry.

Legislators said the 88-member council voted 56-1 to urge Mr Arafat to appoint a new Cabinet with "qualified and experienced ministers" by September.

"We hope Arafat will respond to our resolution because the Cabinet must be changed," Ahmed Korei, the Speaker of the council, said. (Reuters)

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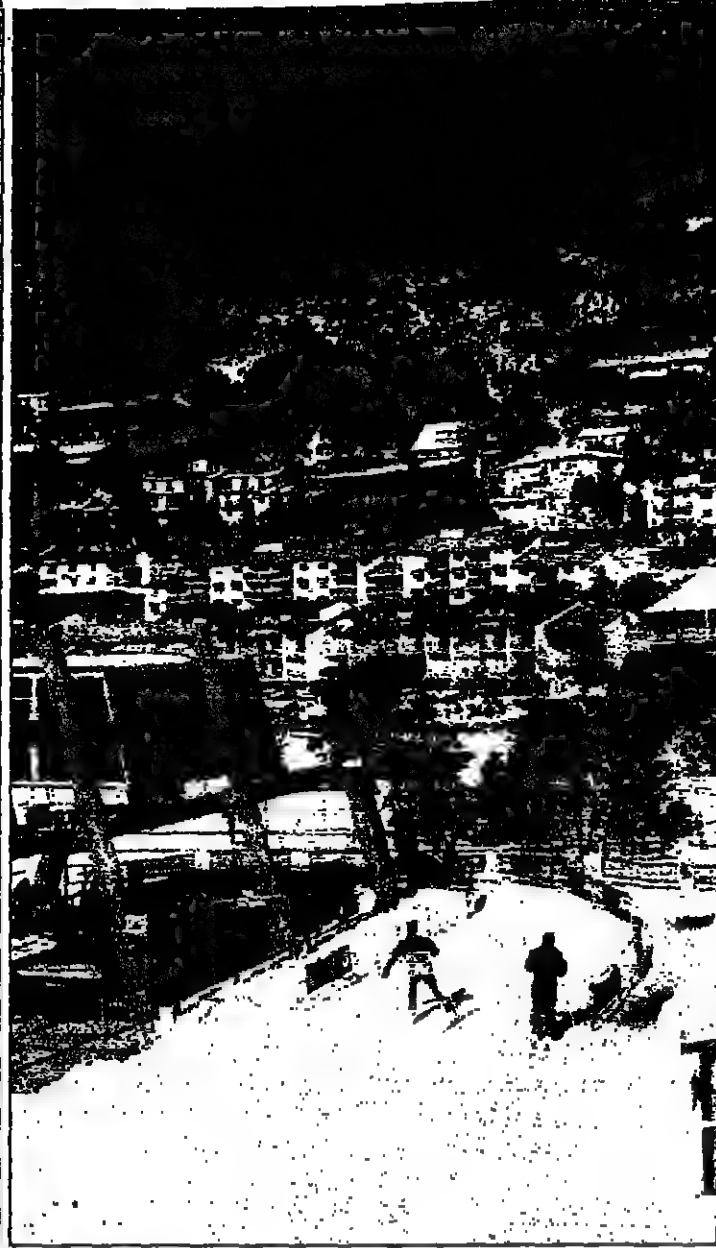
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Rescue workers sift through the remains of two ski lodges destroyed when a landslide hit the Snowy Mountain resort of Thredbo. Heat-seeking equipment has revealed no sign of life

## Ski lodge rescue hopes fade Nature blamed for landslide

RESCUERS last night continued to dig with their hands through the freezing ruins of two Australian ski lodges hit by Wednesday's landslide.

Eleven men and eight women were still buried under tonnes of debris at the Thredbo resort, 250 miles southwest of Sydney. Heat-sensitive equipment showed no signs of life. One body has been recovered so far. It is believed to be that of a woman who had been out on a midnight stroll with her husband.

Glenn Milne, an Australian television journalist holidaying at Thredbo, was sleeping in his lodge when the slide hit. "It struck like a tornado

Fears of triggering further landslides are hampering rescue work at the Thredbo resort where 19 people are still missing, writes Rachel Bridge in Sydney

hitting the building. We were a bit over a metre and a half away. You virtually stepped off the steps at the side of our lodge on to the rubble," he said.

Mr Milne said cries were heard beneath the debris. "We could hear three voices. We tried to form a human chain and pull the rubble out, but as we did the cars teetering on the edge of the concrete pans

were in danger of coming down on top of us."

Rescuers worked through the night in sub-zero temperatures under floodlights, delicately prising away rubble under the threat of further slides. Emergency teams were forced to wait 12 hours before they were allowed into the collapsed area.

Bruce Johnston, a police superintendent, said the

efforts were hampered by fears of further collapse. "It's like a pack of cards. If we move something, we have to be quite sure that something else isn't going to fall."

He added: "There are no signs of life at all, but we are hopeful. One has to be honest, the hope is diminishing."

He said the exercise, involving more than 200 rescuers working in 12-hour shifts, would take at least two days of "methodical work".

Ron Stiebel, a regular Thredbo skier, was undressing for bed and looking out of his window as the landslide ripped past. "It was just like someone was emptying a giant vacuum-cleaner bag," he

said. "It sounded like it was a jet fighter taking off, or an express train going past."

John Bouropolous, another witness, said: "I heard this big wind howling that lasted for a few seconds, then I saw the windows shake and then there was silence. Another couple of metres and we would have been history."

The landslide swept through the Carinya lodge, where one person was believed to be sleeping, and downhill onto the Birabadeen lodge, where 18 staff members were staying. Many of the resort employees were Americans. Among the victims are believed to be an American-born couple who are ski

instructors and the promotions manager of the resort.

Kerry Muller, a youth hostel manager who was among the first at the scene, said three of her best friends were inside one of the buried lodges, including the American ski instructor.

The landslide occurred just before midnight at a time when Thredbo, at an altitude of 4,494ft, was packed with thousands of Australian and foreign visitors. The resort sits on a ridge facing the snow-covered mountain range of the Kosciuszko National Park. Australia's ski season runs from June to October, but has started slowly this year as little snow has fallen.

SCIENTISTS have blamed nature, not man's interference, for the landslide in Thredbo. (Rachel Bridge writes). Environmentalists had said over-development of the ski resort might be responsible.

Ian Plimer, a Melbourne University professor, said soil condition and natural subsidence meant the landslide was inevitable. "Steep alpine areas with thin soils and saturated soils are going to move," he said. "They've done it for thousands of years, and they'll continue to do it for thousands more."

Geologists believe an underground spring may have destabilised the mountain-side. Professor Russell Blong, of the Natural Hazards Research Centre, said that water was the "most likely cause." "Most landslides are caused by earthquakes or occur after heavy rainfalls. In this case, it is probably the result of subsurface water movement," he said.

The Kosciuszko National Park has been the scene of many landslides. Five years ago several townships in the area were isolated for a week when a landslide cut off the access roads.

Another landslide in 1978 destroyed a section of the park's main highway.

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Kant thoughts on marital counselling

## Shrinks suffer an anxiety crisis

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

SUFFERING from acute "shrink fatigue", New Yorkers are turning away from psychiatrists to a stylish new source of therapy — the "philosophical counsellor".

Bearing the message that Plato is better than Prozac, philosophers have taken on the lucrative burden of healing the city's angst. Someone going through a mid-life crisis, they argue, is not suffering from a pathology but a "crisis of values".

Led by Louis Marinoff, a professor of philosophy at New York's City College, the boom is causing shrinks to panic. Many are cutting their formidable fees to compete with those who spout Heidegger and Hobbes.

Speaking to the New York Observer, Professor Marinoff cited a recent case where he treated a woman who complained that her dead brother's spirit was troubling her. "Psychotherapists would say she is recreating the guilt triggered by her brother's death. But it may be possible, according to some philosophical systems, that there was something there. I am there to help the client understand her belief system."

Marital problems are another area where the philosophers believe they have an edge over the Freudian "couch men".

"We would have a talk about what is expected from one another in marriage, what the duties and rights are," he said.

In the new movement's "bible", *Essays on Philosophical Counselling*, Kant bobs up in the chapter on marital counselling; the gloomy Dane, Søren Kierkegaard, appears in the section on coping with death; and Socratic dialogues are portrayed as tools with which to handle drug addicts.

# US ends reign of bankrupt capital's mayor

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE squabbling forces of the White House and Congress united against one man yesterday, reaching agreement on a far-reaching plan to strip power from Marion Barry, Washington's Mayor, and take charge of government in the beleaguered American capital for at least four years.

In an unprecedented proposal, attached to tax legislation fast reaching its final passage in Congress, a presidentially appointed financial board will provide the bankrupt city with billions of dollars and sharply restrict the limited self-government Washington achieved in its Home Rule Charter of 1973.

Mr Barry, who was re-elected for a fourth term three years ago, denounced the move as a return to the days when Washington was considered the last white colony in the United States. He said the White House and Congress had conspired in what he described as a "rape of democracy".

Invoking the language of the civil rights era, Mr Barry said: "Freedom, democracy and self-determination are hallmarks of a free and empowered people."

In essence, the plan would provide billions of dollars in long-term federal funding for Washington and hundreds of millions in tax breaks to spur economic growth. The \$4.9-billion (£3 billion) pension shortfall in the District of Columbia would be transferred to the federal Government.



Barry: accused critics of "raping democracy"

ment while the district could borrow \$300 million for ten years from the US Treasury to ease its cash flow.

Most of the Mayor's authority would be transferred to the control board, which has been ordered to improve everything from poor housing to the abysmal condition of the city's streets and healthcare programmes for the poor.

At the heart of the programme appeared to be the single motive of ending the reign of a man deemed an embarrassment by both Democrats and Republicans. In 1990, after 12 years in which he oversaw the worst decline in the city's standards, Mr Barry was filmed by secret FBI cameras smoking "crack" cocaine with a former model in a hotel room. He was jailed for six months, but re-emerged in 1994 as a man reborn, who had renounced drugs and alcohol.

Playing to the polarised nature of the capital as a saviour against white oppression, he was re-elected, but has failed to improve either the financial circumstances or the state of the capital.

Colleagues believe the bold decision yesterday will only help to empower Mr Barry among the largely black underclass in Washington.

"It is a hydra-headed monster created to get rid of one man," said Sterling Tucker, a former council chairman. "It makes him a martyr, and he is a man very much at ease with martyrdom."

Washington officially became the country's first black majority city in the 1960 census. More than 70 per cent of the population is black and yet it is still known as the last colony, controlled ultimately by the white business elite and perhaps now by white politicians in Congress. The city sprawls over 69 square miles.

Thomas Davis, a Republican congressman from northern Virginia, said Mr Barry was personally responsible for the new loss of authority, accusing the Mayor of playing a Nero-like role in the city's affairs, travelling abroad as Washington burned.



A damaged Federal Express MD11 cargo plane lies upside down on the runway at Newark International Airport in New Jersey yesterday after it crashed, flipped over and burst into flames while attempting to land. The five people aboard managed to escape through a cockpit window with only minor injuries and they were all later released from hospital. The flight had originated in Anchorage, Alaska

## Cockroaches are target of latest purge in China

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

CHINA'S newest mass campaign has begun: "Everyone get busy, wipe out cockroaches." Beijing residents were urged yesterday to spray insecticide twice during August, and rubbish collection is to be improved.

It is unlikely that the campaign, although worthy, will have more of an effect in Beijing than it would in Hong Kong, which is the opposite in terms of public hygiene but is nonetheless cockroach-ridden.

Anyone over the age of 15 in China will sigh at the thought of yet another campaign. They are a Party hallmark. In the 1950s Chinese were ordered to eliminate flies, rats and sparrows, the latter because they were accused of eating huge quantities of grain. Millions of people banged pots and pans until the birds, with no place to alight, fell exhausted and were killed. Flies multiplied.

Rats survived because when people were ordered to bring in rat tails to show they had fulfilled their quotas, many cut them into segments rather than catch more rats.

Many campaigns have been bloodthirsty and were ultimately reversed. In the early years of the Communist period, millions of landlords were killed. During the Cultural Revolution the targets were intellectuals. This had been foreshadowed in the 1950s by the "Hundred Flowers" campaign when intellectuals were encouraged to criticise the Party; this was reversed in the "Anti-Rightist campaign" when they were purged.

In that period, too, Chinese were enjoined to "Learn from Dazhai", a model commune with astonishing crop yields. In the early 1980s, with Maoism on the wane, Dazhai was exposed as a corrupt place in secret receipt of government food supplies.

Also in the late 1950s, during the "Great Leap Forward", peasants eager to show their admiration for Mao vastly exaggerated their crop yields. This led to three years of the worst famine in world history, in which 30 to 50 million people died.

There have been campaigns over the years against Confucius, who was subsequently "rehabilitated". Deng Xiaoping was "smashed and dragged out", together with his family in 1966, but later hailed as the saviour of China.

Letters, page 17

## revised interest rates

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£1,000 - £9,999	4.30	3.68	4.25	3.40
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<b>NOVA PLUS (ISSUE 2)/NOVA GROSS (ISSUE 2)</b>				
(INCLUDES GROSS ISSUE TRANSFERRED ON PURCHASE) (NET RATES DO NOT APPLY TO NOVA GROSS (ISSUE 2))				
£50,000 - £200,000	4.20	3.36	4.20	3.36
£10,000 - £49,999	3.65	2.92	3.65	2.92
£5,000 - £9,999	2.90	2.32	2.90	2.32
£1,000 - £4,999	2.60	2.08	-	-
<b>TESSA 3</b>				
£1 - £9,000	7.05	-	-	-
<b>SMALL SAVERS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT<sup>1</sup></b>				
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£10,000 - £49,999	3.65	2.92	3.65	2.92
£5,000 - £9,999	2.90	2.32	2.90	2.32
£1,000 - £4,999	2.60	2.08	-	-
£1 - £999	0.50	0.40	-	-
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£10,000 - £49,999	3.65	2.92	3.65	2.92
£5,000 - £9,999	2.90	2.32	2.90	2.32
£1,000 - £4,999	2.60	2.08	-	-
£1 - £999	0.50	0.40	-	-
<b>SMALL SAVERS ACCOUNT</b>				
£1 - £999	3.70	2.96	-	-
<b>NOVA 50</b>				
£50,000 - £200,000	7.10	5.68	6.85	5.48
<b>NOVA GROSS SPECIAL ACCOUNT</b>				
£200,000 - £500,000	4.40	-	-	-
<b>TESSA &amp; TESSA 2</b>				
£1 - £9,000	7.05	-	-	-
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£100,000 - £200,000	7.45	5.96	6.20	5.76
<b>NOVA STAR (SIXTH/SEVENTH ISSUE)</b>				
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## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Holbrooke briefed on Bosnia talks

London: Robin Cook yesterday briefed Richard Holbrooke, the former American State Department official who negotiated the Bosnian peace agreement at Dayton, on his meetings with the former belligerents in advance of Mr Holbrooke's visit to Bosnia next week (Michael Binyon writes).

Mr Holbrooke will reinforce the sharp message the Foreign Secretary delivered in Sarajevo and Zagreb that not enough was being done to implement the Dayton agreements. There are hopes that Mr Holbrooke will also see President Milosevic, the Serbian leader, who was on holiday during Mr Cook's visit.

### General's promotion blocked

Washington: William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, has blocked the promotion of Brigadier-General Terry Schwaner, who was in charge of the Dhahran barracks in Saudi Arabia where 19 US airmen were killed in a terrorist attack last year (Tom Rhodes writes). A Pentagon review found shortcomings in security at the barracks. Mr Cohen's decision came after General Ronald Fogleman, Air Force Chief of Staff, asked for early retirement. He had said he would stand down if any senior officer were held responsible for lax security over the bombing.

### US killer buried in Sicily

Palermo: The body of Joseph O'Dell, the murderer and rapist executed in Virginia last week, was buried in a cemetery here (Francesco Bongarra writes). His wife and sister were at the graveside. O'Dell was buried in the Sicilian capital because he was granted honorary citizenship last year by Leoluca Orlando, the Mayor. A headline describes the dead man as an "honorary citizen of Palermo, killed by Virginia, USA, in the name of a merciless and brutal justice system".

### EU to ban 'deadly' seafood

Brussels: The European Union is set to outlaw shrimp and other seafood imports worth \$350 million (£216 million) from India, Madagascar and Bangladesh because of food-poisoning fears, officials said. The ban follows the discovery of hygiene deficiencies at seafood processing and production units, including cases of seafood infected with the potentially deadly bacteria vibrio — which causes cholera — and salmonella. (AP)

### Vatican names British envoy

Rome: Archbishop Pablo Puente, a Vatican diplomat who helped to arrange the pope's visit to Beirut in May, was named by the Pope as Vatican envoy to Britain. The Spanish-born Mr Puente, 67, has served as the Vatican's Ambassador to Lebanon and Kuwait since 1989. The Beirut visit had been on hold since 1994 when the trip was called off for security reasons. (AP)

## Spanish child porn ring used secret files

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

A SPANISH child pornography and prostitution ring used official medical and social services records to draw up a list of vulnerable children as young as five.

Police in Barcelona said more than 30 children were abused by the gang, which distributed the pornographic material around Europe.

Jose Maria Aznar, the Prime Minister, said he was "extremely concerned" by the investigation. "There will be new laws so that these sort of people can be pursued and tried more efficiently," he promised.

A local politician and the former head of a children's day centre were among 12 people arrested in the first stage of the operation. Hundreds of videos and photographs were confiscated. Police said they suspected the ring had been operating for nearly a decade.

Many of the videos were exported to other European countries. Some were seized by French police in April when they questioned 300 people in a nationwide crackdown on paedophiles.

The gang selected its victims from one of the poorest districts of Barcelona. Children were identified from records which showed them to be from broken or troubled homes. They were then approached on the street and were tempted with gifts and trips.

Police were unable to explain how the gang had obtained the computer files.



# Quiet American invades Russia

The launch of Vogue in Russia is Jonathan Newhouse's latest coup.  
Interview by Jason Cowley

As a young student at Yale, Jonathan Newhouse felt divided over his fabulous birthright. The scion of a publishing empire, he knew that he was expected to follow his father and cousins into the family business. But it was the early 1970s and his thoughts were full of rebellion and escape: he wanted to paint (he was reading fine art at Yale), to travel, to pursue creative interests.

"It was the time of the Vietnam War, there were riots on the streets and many young people were questioning the values of the older generation," he says. "I had very mixed feelings about the family business: it was not something I embraced automatically."

Time moves on: Jonathan Newhouse, 45, is today considered, together with his cousin Steven, as a future leader of Advance Publications, the privately owned Newhouse family enterprise which Fortune magazine values at between \$8 billion and \$10 billion. The family's wealth is founded on ownership of more than 20 regional newspapers; several major cable television operations; the Condé Nast magazine group, whose flagship publications include Vogue and Vanity Fair, and the book publishing group Random House. They own, too, arguably the best magazine in the world, The New Yorker.

The chairman of Advance Publications is the reclusive, driven, Si Newhouse, Jonathan's first cousin and eldest son of the late family patriarch, Sam Newhouse, who emerged from the crumbling tenements of the immigrant quarter of New York's Lower East Side to galvanise the family's aspirations. Si Newhouse may be, as Jonathan says, in robust health, but he is also approaching 70; he must surely be considering his succession. If so, Jonathan is handily placed: since 1989 he has driven the global expansion of Condé Nast International while transforming its profitability.

The emerging economies of the Asian "tiger" countries and those in the old Eastern bloc are important markets. Flush with new wealth, people in these countries appear dazzled by Western luxury goods and designer labels. Newhouse has caringly responded by launching Vogue in Korea and Taiwan, and GQ in Japan; yesterday afternoon he announced, in partnership with Russian publishers SK Communications International, his most notable expansion: a Russian edition of Vogue.

He is thrilled that what he calls a "symbol of luxury, consumerism and capitalism" should be embraced so enthusiastically in the former Soviet Union. To think that ten years ago this was a communist country and now Vogue is opening there...

The first Russian editions of Western magazines such as Playboy, Cosmopolitan and Elle were launched almost three years ago — and have prospered, Condé Nast, though, was more cautious. Newhouse says: "As a company, we tend not to be the first into a market because we appeal to the more upmarket elements in it. So we can only go into a market when our readers and advertisers are ready for us. This is the case in Russia."

"We see Russia as a very fertile market for the future. Russians are currently the most aggressive consumers on the planet; they occupy the same place as the Japanese in the Eighties and the Arabs in the Seventies. In luxury shops all over the world, the biggest and best customers are now Russian. If you walk into a restaurant in Russia you see women dressed from head to toe in Chanel and Versace. You don't see this in London or New York."

The vulgarity and lawlessness of contemporary Russia, with its mafia gangs and prostitutes, its nouveaux riches



Jonathan Newhouse no longer feels daunted by the family fortune. "Wealth brings ease, freedom and protection, but, in itself, it's not what's satisfying or important in life"

as flaunting their Versace medallions and Chanel "double Cs", is of no concern to Newhouse. "Look, we are from Condé Nast, not Interpol," he says, laughing. "Whether a woman is a princess or a prostitute she still has to dress herself: if she has wealth and taste, or aspires to those things, the magazine she is going to turn to first is Vogue. Whether the money is being made dishonestly is not our concern."

In America, the Newhouses

have a compelling fascination. What is perceived as their secretiveness and inscrutability, their dogged loyalty to one another, frustrates as much as it intrigues. The family abhors publicity. Sam Newhouse's maxim that "nothing matters more than the family" is a guiding principle.

Jonathan Newhouse says: "Sure, we value our privacy as a family. We were all taught to conduct ourselves with discretion. It doesn't suit us to call attention to ourselves. As Jews

from New York owning newspapers throughout the country, we thought it wise to keep a low profile."

Unlike great newspaper proprietors such as Randolph Hearst, they had no wider political ambitions. "The typical newspaper proprietor in the early part of the century used newspapers for political and personal power. Our goal in owning newspapers was to maintain the quality and health of the papers themselves. We aren't Howard Hughes types, we aren't being obsessive — we just don't want to call attention to ourselves."

Did being Jewish in America have anything to do with their reticence? "It wasn't and has never been a problem, but maybe there was a time when it could have been."

The journey of the Newhouse family, in just two generations, from the teeming ghettos to one of the largest privately held fortunes in the US, is a metaphor for modern America. He agrees that "our journey typifies the American dream of arriving with nothing and building a success."

His grandfather, Meier Neuhau, certainly had nothing when he arrived in New York from Russia, having fled Tsarist pogroms. The son of a

rabbi, he was debilitated by poor, and scraped a living by making braces. "My grandfather, whom I never knew, was a poor man and in bad health. My uncle [Sam] was the success at business. He built the business, originally by borrowing and scraping money together to buy his first newspaper [the Staten Island Advance, from which Advance Publications derives its name], and then slowly expanding it."

Like his father, Norman, Jonathan Newhouse began his career in the production department of one of the family newspapers, learning how to set hot type. He progressed quickly, working in jobs of increasing responsibility before Si Newhouse moved him into magazines. In 1989, he was appointed chief executive of Condé Nast International and moved to Paris.

He enjoyed the city and his work, but was looked into a deteriorating marriage (his first wife, Deborah, now lives in New York with their two young daughters, Emily and Nora).

One afternoon, Newhouse visited a clairvoyant who told him that he would soon meet the love of his life and move to

a "land surrounded by water". Shortly afterwards, he renewed acquaintance with Ronnie Cooke, who was to become his second wife.

They had first met while he was publisher and she was creative director of Details magazine. "I was married when we first met, so our relationship was purely professional. We kept in touch over the years and I even tried to hire her a couple of times." After his divorce, they met again in Paris. "Things worked out and we decided, in the end, to move to London."

They married in Richmond register office in June 1995. Ronnie, though, has spent most of the past year commuting by Concorde between London and New York, where she works as creative director of Calvin Klein. He feels her absence keenly. As a result, she has not renewed her contract with Calvin Klein and is returning permanently to London, working on freelance assignments. Newhouse says: "We have been apart a little too much recently. Let me put it this way, I kissed Versace more recently than I kissed my wife."

He describes Ronnie as the love of his life. "She is a brilliant, talented, vibrant,

wonderful person; we have a very passionate relationship." His greatest pain remains his separation from his children. "I talk to them every day and write to them. I see them on holidays and I go back once a month, sometimes twice, but this isn't nearly enough. It's terribly painful to be separated from them."

He pauses, shifts uneasily in his chair. "What astounds me about the British," he continues, "is how they can send their children away to school. To me, children are the most precious things in the world."

There is nothing imperious about Jonathan Newhouse. His conversation is engagingly colloquial, free from the clichés and jargon of so much contemporary business discourse. A small, shy man, he is disarmingly polite.

He no longer feels daunted by the wealth and expectation of the family legacy. "One lives one's life as a person; you get up, do your work and take care of your family. Wealth brings ease, freedom and protection, but, in itself, it's not what's satisfying or important in life." So what is? "My family and my work."

Or, to echo Sam Newhouse: "The ties that matter are the ties to each other."

## THE SUNDAY TIMES



STANLEY KUBRICK  
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## GOthic GUINNESS

I don't mind being dubbed aristocratic. I think it's quite funny — and it's helped me a lot

JASMINE GUINNESS, THE LATEST ARISTO-MODEL

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## Sushi — the kebab of the 1990s?

There is a moment at the end of *Withnail and I* when the drug dealer announces that the spirit of the Sixties is coming to an end because hippy wigs are on sale at Woolworth. I know what he means. It is difficult not to feel the same way about sushi.

It is not so much that Japan's appetite for the stuff is supposed to be in danger of causing the "commercial" extinction of the southern bluefin tuna; rather the sight of boxes of sushi in Pret a Manger.

That this admirable chain of sandwich bars now flogs sushi, along with cappuccino and an ersatz Soho atmosphere, means that, according to Peter York, the style guru, the trend for lumps of congealed rice, topped with cold fish, "has had it as far as fashionable people are concerned".

Sushi has become the kebab of the 1990s. It had to happen, but there will be those who mourn its passing into the mainstream. There was something wonderfully naive about the way that sushi was embraced by the self-appointed fashionable elite of Britain.

The Eighties was a time when Japan enjoyed cultural and economic hegemony the world over. Readers of the then nascent style press would drool over technoporn — loving intimate pictures of the latest miniature camera, microscopic solar-powered radio or sleek hi-fi system. Many people even got out of bed and slept on the floor — remember futons?

"People were craven about aspects of Japanese culture," York says. "Sushi suited people who liked to have obscure, nasty, raw food. Nobody in their right mind likes raw food. I went there [Japan]. I had it. It was nasty."

But back in those days York was in a minority. During the early Eighties Andrea Riva, proprietor of the famed eponymous Barnes restaurant, went into business with Lord Lichfield, the Hon Henry Smith and Eddie Lim and opened a restaurant called Pier 31 on Chyne Walk. "It was quite nouvelle cuisine-ish"

The cold fish has reached our high street, mourns Nick Foulkes



Once fashionable, now mainstream

Riva says, "but as starters we had sushi and sashimi: seabass, salmon and tuna. People were going more for that than the other things."

Not one to miss a burgeoning culinary trend, Riva installed a sushi bar and shipped in a sushi chef. "He came from a dynasty of sushi chefs. The way they cut the fish goes from father to son, it is more a ritual than a way of preparing food," Riva says.

"We used to do sushi boats. We served it in a little boat and the customers must have felt as if it had come all the way from Japan because it took the guy so long to cut the sushi up."

Nevertheless, sushi slipped into the Wall Street lifestyle easily enough. A bottle or two of Cristal was ordered to start with, then some overpriced and

overlooked Oz chardonnay with the sushi. After which it was a bottle of port or a line or two of coke... leaving just enough time to wrap the Porsche around a lamppost before getting up at 5am to go to the gym before closing that deal.

However, not all sushi's new devotees quite knew how to face this delicacy. There were tales of customers who ate everything including the little green plastic leaves on which the sushi was presented — a little chewy perhaps, but palatable once smothered in wasabi, soy sauce and shredded ginger.

The key to sushi's success was that it had been endorsed by America.

"It has those Californian overtones that it is good for you and the heart," York says. Riva sees the popularity of sushi as analogous with the rise of the cooking of his native Northern Italy. "Like everything that becomes popular, sushi did not come directly to England from Japan and Northern Italian food did not come directly from Italy. They came via America. Sushi and polenta have existed for centuries but to be accepted in England they needed to be baptised in New York or Los Angeles."

These days Pier 31 is a car showroom and sushi is being eaten by secretaries who want a bit of a change from their Philadelphia cheese sandwiches. There is nothing wrong with this, it is just that sushi is not what it used to be.

What is interesting is to try to define what the late 1990s riposte to cold fish and rice might be. Given the excruciating trendiness of Momo, just off Regent Street, might not the food of North Africa become the hip thing? Any chef worthy of his own TV slot is bound to be brushing up on his couscous. And, as regards cultural hegemony, I have seen a few pieces about houses in North Africa in definitive opinion-forming mags.

If you want to get on the couscous trail you'd better hurry — Marks & Spencer does an extremely tasty, ready-made couscous with vegetables.



Post-feminism hasn't made the dating game any easier for women, says Imogen Edwards-Jones. And, right, Sean Langan explains how men are clinging to power

I am primed, ready and Lycra-ed up, trying to look "money" — *Swingers*-speak for good, from the hit film of the summer about young men on the pull. I am sitting at the bar and I feel groovy. I've had eye contact for ages and I've been flicking my hair and doing the old lipstick pout for some time. It's now or never.

I take a deep breath, knock back my vodka and mince my way towards his table. Halfway there, I suddenly change direction and make a tactical break for the loo. Why is it, after all the glass ceilings we've shattered and the liberated advances we've made, that girls still can't ask a boy out on a date?

When I say can't, I actually mean won't, because these days a girl can do anything and everything. She can have a job, a career, babies, even babies and a career. She can dance, roller-skate and sing rubbish pop songs all at the same time. We sassy under-30 babes are the new feisty girl generation. We've got girl power. We imbibed feminism in the milk of our hessian-touting, tank-top sporting mothers. And then we reworked it.

Our generation chose to underwire their bras, not burn them. We're the sexy minxes who chop the masculinity off executive toys. We're the girls who ditched the dungarees and popped on lipstick. We're post-feminists and yet we're still too wet to invite boys out for a drink.

What are we afraid of? While the boys are all donning their Don Juan personas, or in the case of *Swingers*, reclaiming the Rat Pack cool of Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, we girls are useless. All boys ever say is "Er, no thanks darlin'" and then turn away for a giggle with their friends. How frightening can that be in the grand scheme of rejection? Well, quite frightening, actually. For as Margaret Leroy describes in her book *Some Girls Do* — one of those psychobabble, self-help tomes about women making the first move, published last month (HarperCollins, £9.99) — I'm a girl who does. Or, if I'm being honest, I'm a girl who used to.

In my student days, I used to go out regularly with my girlfriends to chat up boys. Not that we were



Sitting pretty: women have made advances in almost every field but they still sit around waiting to be asked out by men, unable to pluck up the courage to take the lead

## Why girls can't make the first move ...

always successful. In fact, we rarely had any luck. But back then our failure was amusing. Something to be discussed at length over a pint of scrumpy in the pub.

All of this was, of course, pre-wonder woman and those confident seducers who get their figures back 30 seconds after giving birth. They have ruined it for the rest of us. Rejection is no longer something that can be laughed off in the back of the car on the way home with the girls. These days it sends you off to the shrink. However,

there are some people who believe that women are in control of the dating game. It's the girls, they say, who do the chasing, pursuing and the rejecting. A delicate hair flick here, a short skirt there, and Bob's putty in your hands.

But ask anyone who has spent hours waiting by the telephone, madly punching out 1471 on the off chance that he has called, and they'll tell you that the idea of women being in control is a load of old Spice Girl. Boys don't do telephone hell. They don't do

driving past the house at 3am just to see if the lights are on. They don't agonise about the opposite sex the way women do. They don't spontaneously take up hobbies, bound with midnight telephone calls or read other people's star signs. Remember Glenn Close in *Fatal Attraction*? Boys will chat up a girl and, if it works, they're pleased; if not, there's always football.

But that still doesn't deter some of us. Sometimes, usually after over-indulging in alcohol, we choose to forget that men hold most

of the dating cards. We ignore the fact that as they have lost out on almost everything else in recent years, they're desperate to keep this final deck firmly clutched to their chests. So keen are they to keep this advantage that there seems to be a new breed of man on the block. A sort of points-scoring man who hangs around after giving you the brush-off, so that he can see your humiliation. A man who won't leave you alone after he's told you to go away.

It was after an encounter with

one of these that I finally gave up thinking that I could control the dating game. For not only did he turn me down, but he ended up picking me up off a pavement and popping me into the back of a taxi afterwards.

His patronising, knight-in-shining-armor act was just too much. This new "I don't fancy you, but I'd like to be your friend" type of bloke is really enough to put a girl off the dating game for good.

Rejection we can just about cope with, but best friends? Forget it.

## And why men wish they would

Men who work in the City can't close the deal: sportsmen drop the ball: pilots crash and burn, while writers lose the plot. When it comes to chatting up women, there are a million ways to fail. And like Eskimos, who have many different words for snow, men have an infinite number of phrases for when a woman says no.

Making the first move is probably a man's last preserve. It's the only male bastion that women have no interest in liberating, but it is the first thing most men would concede. When it comes to chatting up the opposite sex, men are crying for equality. Give us the hammer; we will smash that glass ceiling for you.

Like most modern men, I've had to learn the art of politically correct seduction, an oxymoronic term that requires both a feminine touch and testosterone. And yet I've lost count of how many times I've been shot down.

Before the days of sexual equality, it was only fair that men should bear the responsibility for taking the lead. But those days are gone, thankfully, and yet a man's still gotta do what a woman won't. Sure, women don't mind paying for the meal nowadays. But then I would gladly pay to see someone squirm for two hours, and then have the pleasure of deciding their fate with a thumbs up or down.

Oh what hell it must be to have to sit in a bar and wait for a man to come over: oh what hell it must be to have to wait for a man to telephone. What on earth do these women think we're doing while they sit around all day?

We're plucking up the courage to make that long, fearsome walk across the bar, or summoning the guts to make that phone call. That's what we're doing. And they say men have a communication problem. Here's a handy tip for women: next time you want to talk, pick up the telephone.

I know what they say — it's women who control the flow, who send out all those signals for us poor dolls to read. Ah yes, those signposts, those bright green lights that help us along our way. Those signposts might as well be in Sanskrit. A sideways glance, an accidental brush of the knee, a flick of the hair ... what on earth are you trying to tell us? Why can't you just speak English? It would make life so much easier.

Just once, I would like to sit in judgment as a woman asks me "Will you go out with me?" "Will you have sex with me?" But, of course, women don't need to ask those kind of questions. They already have the answers.

## Good news for NatWest savers

NatWest announces the following increased interest rates, effective from 1 August 1997:

Savings	Old Rate per annum (%)	New Rate per annum (%)	Net Rate per annum (%)
<b>Millennium Bond</b> Two year term - interest paid annually £2,000 - £250,000	7.20	7.20	5.76
<b>TESSA Reserve</b> Tax Free Savings - No Withdrawal £100,000 - £250,000	6.75	6.92	N/A
<b>Crown Reserve</b> 3 Month Notice - interest paid quarterly £250,000 + £100,000 - £249,999 £50,000 - £99,999 Below £50,000, gross rates are the same as Diamond Reserve	6.35 6.20 5.90	6.50 6.35 6.03	5.08 4.96 4.72
<b>Diamond Reserve</b> 1 Month Notice - interest paid monthly £100,000 + £50,000 - £99,999 £25,000 - £49,999 £10,000 - £24,999 £2,000 - £9,999	6.05 5.75 5.50 5.30 3.95	6.22 5.90 5.12 4.59 4.02	4.84 4.60 4.00 3.60 3.16
<b>Reward Reserve</b> Instant Access - basic interest paid quarterly £10,000 + £2,000 - £9,999	5.85 5.60	5.91 5.66	4.68 4.48
<b>Premium Reserve</b> Instant Access - interest paid quarterly £50,000 + £25,000 - £49,999 £10,000 - £24,999 £2,000 - £9,999	4.55 4.45 4.10 3.85	4.63 4.52 4.16 3.91	3.64 3.56 3.28 3.08
<b>First Reserve</b> Instant Access - interest paid quarterly £1,000 + £500 - £999 £250 - £499 £100 - £249 £1 - £99	3.35 3.10 2.00 1.85 1.75	3.39 3.14 2.02 1.86 1.76	2.68 2.48 1.60 1.48 1.40

The rates for all other personal savings accounts remain unchanged. Where appropriate, lower rate tax (currently 20%) will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by residents non-taxpayers). Otherwise the example, subject to the relevant regulations, interest will be paid gross.

The Gross Rate is the rate paid before deducting income tax. The Gross Compounded Annual Rate (CAR) is the rate where gross interest payments are reinvested in the account during the year.

The Net Rate is the rate paid after the deduction of lower rate income tax, currently at 20%.

The gross rate and the gross CAR for the Reward Reserve account include quarterly interest payments of 1.50% gross per annum and an annual interest reward of 0.50% gross per annum. Quarterly interest payments are payable provided the account balance does not fall below £2,000 and no more than one withdrawal is made in any quarter. Annual interest is payable provided the account remains in credit and no more than three withdrawals are made in any year.

For details of other interest rates please call at your local branch. All rates are subject to variation.

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## Fond memories of Ronnie Biggs

Age has caught up with Ronnie Biggs — and the policeman who failed to do the same is fretting about him. "He has no life left in him, no fire in his eyes," says Jack Slipper, the former Scotland Yard detective whose life has been dominated by one of the most captivating cat and mouse chases in criminal history.

Now, as possible extradition and prison in Britain stare the Great Train Robber in the face, Biggs is too tired to run. Slipper, meanwhile, far from rejoicing, thinks the old rogue should be left where he is.

Biggs is looking old. When I last saw him in Rio de Janeiro, he would throw back his head and laughingly scorn any idea that he could ever be forced

back to Britain for his role in the Great Train Robbery. Now, after hearing that Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is to ask for his return when Brazil's extradition treaty with Britain comes into force next month, he says: "If the Brazilian Government decides I must go back, then go back I shall." He is ready to finish doing his time, he says.

Biggs also seems to cling to the hope that Slipper may now offer some chance of salvation from extradition. Their relationship is a bit like the love-hate relationship which often develops between kidnapper and hostage. "Mr Slipper and I have had a beer or two together and I know he thinks it is pointless to put me in the slammer again," says Biggs, 67.

The robber was sentenced to 30 years in jail for his part in the raid on a mail train in Buckinghamshire in August, 1963, when 120 mailbags containing £2.6 million were stolen. He escaped from Wandsworth prison after serving just 15 months and has since been on the run in France and Australia before finding refuge in Brazil in 1970.

Slipper, now 73, was forced to give up the chase for Biggs in 1974 when Raimunda, the robber's Brazilian girlfriend,

became pregnant. Brazilian law shields the parents of its dependents from extradition.

After retiring as Detective Chief Superintendent, the seeds of Slipper's ambiguous relationship with Biggs took root when the policeman visited the robber in Rio in 1993. By all accounts they enjoyed one another's company.

When I saw Biggs in 1995, he gurgled with pleasure about the time he took Slipper to a Japanese restaurant in one of the trendiest quarters of the Brazilian city. He had urged an unwitting Slipper to dig deep into the wasabi sauce. Biggs had watched with glee as the former policeman gasped for breath after taking a huge mouthful.

Today, Slipper is shocked by Biggs's appearance on television this week. "Did you see him? He was all wrinkled round his neck, he looked terrible. He wasn't smiling and laughing as he used to."

It is hard to believe that once, for the sheer cheek of it, Biggs manoeuvred himself to stand inches away from the former Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, when the minister attended a reception at one of Rio's most expensive hotels in 1995.

"He can come over and hand me my deportation papers now," Biggs stage-whispered in my ear, much to the delight of a Yorkshire businessman accompanying the Hurd-led business delegation to Brazil. Security men travelling with Hurd seemed to recognise Biggs who flinched at his presence in the hotel, but the detectives appeared at a loss over whether to act.

Even then, though, it was obvious that Biggs was becoming increasingly homesick with advancing years. He beamed when I asked him to sign some postcards I was sending home, seeing even that as a link with Blighty, as he called the UK.

The odd thing was, none of the cards arrived.

EVE-ANN PRENTICE

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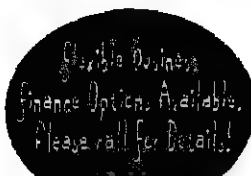
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## Don't scare tycoons away from politics

David Simon defends himself as a minister and a businessman

When the Prime Minister asked me to enter the Government as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe I had to think twice. You do not resign the chairmanship of a great company lightly. I was aware of the problems as of the challenges. I thought that my appointment might attract some criticism in the Labour Party despite efforts by the leadership to transform the party's relations with the business community. But three months on I am sure I made the right decision, and astonished that resulting criticism has come not from the less "new" members of new Labour, but from an apparent champion of the free market, John Redwood.

I am a businessman, not a politician. When I took on my role I made it clear that I did not intend to enter the world of party politics, with its attendant media circus. I prefer to work to be judged by results. I do not intend for that to change now, but I do recognise that charges continue to be made about my actions. While the Opposition has been careful to stop short of alleging impropriety, three central charges have been put over the last weeks. I think it is right that I answer each of them.

The first charge is that my continuing shareholding in BP is a conflict of interest with my ministerial responsibilities. There is no substance to this charge. It is clearly sensible that ministers should avoid any suggestion that their decisions are based on personal considerations. To ensure this, ministers who hold shares are offered three alternatives on entering the government. To take no part in official business, which may constitute a conflict of interest; to transfer shares to a trust, the managers of which would take decisions without reference to the minister; or to sell the shares.

My position was complicated by the fact that, as well as being a shareholder in BP, I was the chairman of the company until my appointment to government. I therefore took the view that it would be inappropriate for that reason alone to be involved in any government decisions directly affecting BP.

In addition I had considerable insider knowledge of BP and I judged that my ability to sell the shares was constrained both by insider dealing legislation and personal judgment as to what constitutes sound governance. The day I entered my new office I took advice from the Permanent Secretary at the department. I was advised to put my non-BP holdings into a blind trust, which I have done. This was not appropriate for my BP shares. It was decided that I should keep my BP shares until the situation is reviewed next January, after a further assessment of my access to insider knowledge can be made. Until then none of my BP shares will be traded. In the meantime steps have been taken to ensure that I do not allow any conflict of interest between my BP shareholding and my official business.

The second charge is that

these steps have been inadequate and that I still take decisions which relate to BP. This is also totally without foundation. No BP-specific matters come before me. In all the flurry of political incoherence over the last few days nobody has ever suggested that I have taken any decision which specifically benefited BP. I do however take decisions on generic competitiveness issues with the aim of benefiting all UK companies. The job given to me by the Prime Minister is to help British industry compete more effectively in Europe. If I am doing my job effectively I will benefit BP as well as every other company in Britain. I make no apology for that. But attempts to claim that such generic decisions represent a conflict of interest border on the absurd. It is the equivalent of saying that the Social Security ministers should stop trying to modernise the welfare state if they are in a pension scheme.

Specifically, John Redwood has claimed that a conflict arose when I signed the Single Market Action Plan which mentioned, among many other measures, gas liberalisation. Gas liberalisation is not, in fact, being negotiated by me, even though it does not specifically relate to BP. The document I signed was simply an Explanatory Memorandum which describes a large number of Commission proposals to help complete the Single Market. It in no way amounts to a conflict of interest with my shareholding.

The third charge is that I will be avoiding tax because some of my shares are held in Jersey. This is also untrue. BP does, perfectly legally, hold shares in a Jersey trust which relate to the long-term performance plan, which benefits some 350 of the BP staff. It is a long-term scheme which only pays if the company is successful. Individuals pay tax on shares as soon as they are awarded to them. I have paid full income tax on all the shares held in the trust.

I understand the Opposition and the media have a duty to ensure that the high standards in public life to which this Government is committed are being maintained. But the facts in my case simply do not support their charges and innuendoes. Both the spirit and the letter of the rules have been followed in every way.

I have a thick skin and will not be deflected from the challenge of helping Britain to win in Europe. My one regret is that the row generated by the Opposition may make other businessmen wary of becoming involved in government. Indeed, the logical conclusion from some of the arguments employed by what was once the party of business seems to be that all businessmen entering government are inevitably subject to conflicts of interest and should be barred. That would be a shame for politics. It would be a shame for Britain.

Lord Simon of Highbury is Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe.



## The Andes connection

Body of political sketch-writer found clutching old paperback in Peruvian gully. Remember, you read it here first

A favourite book is like a favourite person. She may not be the best. She may be no better than dozens of others you could name and she may be no better than she ought to be. But you love her. You love her with all her faults. You love her, ready to concede without demur how easily she could be belittled, but confident you will never change your mind.

For me this book is *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. For those who care to be correct in these things, "Luis" is Spanish, not French, and therefore the "s" is pronounced.

The author, Thornton Wilder, died in 1957. He was an American, born in Wisconsin, who spent part of his early life abroad; his infancy in China. A schoolteacher, airman and later a professor at Harvard, Wilder is often described as a Christian humanist. The expression reads too bleakly for so warm, open and rather mystical a writer.

After this book, Wilder went on to write further novels and some wonderful plays. *Our Town*, when I saw it produced by the Manchester Youth Theatre recently, reduced me to tears. Though no more than a chronicle of the unexceptional lives of a family of small-town Protestant Americans, it is written with depth and kindness and intensity — and an economy which leaves Updike floundering.

*The Happy Journey* simply places the members of a family on the stage in the positions they would occupy in their motor car, and follows them on a family outing. It is more moving than I can say. *The Merchant of Yonkers* found its way to fame when turned into the musical *Hello Dolly*. And *The Ides of March* is probably Wilder's best book.

But it is *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, published in 1927 when he was 30, which established Wilder as a great American novelist. He takes a real event in history as his starting point: the collapse of a hanging limestone bridge in the Peruvian Andes, pitching the small group of unrelated travellers upon it to their deaths.

His glance fell upon the bridge, and at that moment a twanging noise filled the air, as when the string of some musical instrument snaps in a disused room, and he saw the bridge divide and fling five gesticulating men into the valley below.

Anyone else would have said to himself with secret joy: "Within ten minutes myself..." but it was another

thought that visited Brother Juniper: "Why did this happen to these five?" If there were any pattern in the universe at all, if there were any pattern in a human life, surely it could be discovered mysteriously latent in those lives so suddenly cut off. Either we live by accident and die by accident, or we live by plan and die by plan. And on that instant Brother Juniper made the resolve to inquire into the secret lives of those five persons that moment falling through the air, and to surprise the reason of their taking off.

In the slim, 100-page novel which follows, Wilder follows Brother Juniper's researches into five separate lives, thrown (literally) by chance together at the end. It is as though we begin with some great discord on the cathedral organ, then follow each of the organ pipes from its construction through to this moment of cacophony. Except that the novelist finds beneath the final discord a secret harmony.

Even in that short passage you may detect some of Wilder's strengths and weaknesses as a writer. Beneath a classical style he is an emotional man, but clothes this in self-consciously formal phrasing. The result can be a little precious, at times forced, but reads beautifully. His descriptions of Peru are masterly...

...a flame (a lady with a long neck and sweet, shallow eyes, burdened down by a fur cape and picking her way down an interminable staircase) came over and offered her a velvety cleft nose to stroke. The flame is deeply interested in the human beings about her, is even fond of pretending that she too is one of them, and of inserting her head into their conversations as though in a moment she would lift her voice and contribute a wisp and helpful comment.

But she never quite does. Describing the receipt of a cruel letter from someone who is dear, "Full of wounding remarks rather

brilliantly said, perhaps said for the sheer virtuosity of giving pain neatly", Wilder writes: "Each of his phrases found its way through the eyes of the Marquesa, then, carefully wrapped in understanding and forgiveness, it sank into her heart."

But I must not try your patience with quotations from a book you could buy and read yourself. After 70 years it is still in print.

The edition before me as I write is one of those familiar old orange-and-white Penguin paperbacks. It was published in 1961, but this copy seems to have been printed just after

the war, carrying inside its back cover advertisements for books such as *Flight to Victory*.

It has just been given to me by a friend who bought it last year in Hay-on-Wye. He knows I love the book. But he was also intrigued by something which seems to have escaped the attention of the bookseller, who sold it for next to nothing. Inside the front cover, the original owner has used the title page to make extensive notes.

Only a politician or a journalist could commit such sacrilege. I started to read the notes, written in light blue ink in a small, slightly feminine hand with the ghost of a backward slope, using a medium-nibbed fountain pen. These are a politician's notes, towards a speech. "Stick to motion," is an early entry. "Account," says the first line. "I hope mine will not be suspected of being merely to [illegible] sympathy for my argument." Later, under the sub-heading "unemployment", he (for I assume it to be a man) has written "I can tell you the reaction when headlines in the papers read 'My heart bleeds for Lancashire'."

Was this a Labour politician with a northern accent, on his way to make an anti-Tory speech in Lancashire? "Foreign policy" is scribbled in: "Churchills round table confab with

Stalin? Promises [underlined]: regulations — civil servants — no cut in social services? Health...

"Food — cut in imports. Results. Rise in prices. No schools. Building: poor standards."

"No control better — but how? Butler & Churchill — one of whom says we are doing nicely, other says we are in a trapdoor..."

And then this marvellous phrase: "How can there be organisation between brilliant men of balanced outlook like Mr Butler or Mr Eden, between catchphrase politicians like Mr Churchill, men like Lord Woolton & Dr Charles Hill who are in the predicament of I've got a reputation but what can I do with it — and the mass of *Daily Express* headlines in the party itself?"

I may be wrong but the sentiments here, and their means of expression, strike me as coming from a senior politician of a not unthoughtful disposition, the term "catchphrase politician" is splendid, a forerunner for today's disparaging "soundbite politician" and an echo of something Evelyn Waugh was to write of the later Churchill: "simply a radio personality who outlived his prime."

Reading these notes, I speculate that they were made by a Labour front-bencher with a Lancashire accent, in a train and on his way to debate against a Tory government, probably in the early 1950s.

Only speculation. If the writer is sufficiently famous, his handwriting may be recognisable to scholars. I would half like to find out — yet am half inclined to leave the notes to tease me, as they now do, inside the cover of my favourite novel.

And I fancy that if Wilder is watching me typing, he will be amused. As it so happens, you see, I am about to fly to Peru. By the time you read this I shall have flown. I shall take the book.

A *Times* political columnist, Hay-on-Wye: *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, given fortuitously by a friend; a past politician's speech notes: a train to Lancashire; an aeroplane to South America where both my friend and I intend to climb a 22,000-foot Andean peak... it is all converging.

Wish us a safe flight, but if the worst happens... well, I have done even better than Brother Juniper. I have surprised my own taking off.

Matthew Parris

## Escape route

THE latest issue of the *Church Times*, mouthpiece of the Anglican establishment, tackles for the first time the previously taboo question of how the Prince of Wales might satisfactorily marry Camilla Parker Bowles. A French civil wedding, it concludes, may be the answer.

In a piece over two pages, Brian Brindley, the former secretary of the General Synod who has since become a Roman Catholic, says that nothing the Prince has done to date prejudices his becoming Defender of the Faith. Far more promiscuous men have become

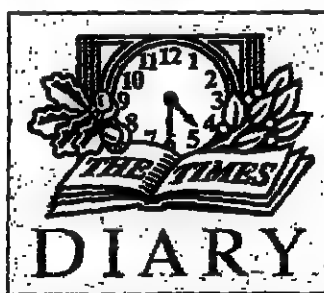
King. There is also no objection to his marrying Camilla. The problem is the possible awkwardness of Camilla being made Queen.

There is no legal provision in Britain, writes Brindley, for a morganatic marriage which enables royals to marry non-royals without conferring any of their titles or status on their children or spouses. So if Charles were to marry Camilla, she would have to become Queen.

Brindley, however, believes he may have found a way for Charles to marry Camilla, be crowned King and yet for Camilla not to become Queen — in effect for them to have a quasi-morganatic marriage without any change in legislation.

The Royal Marriages Act of 1772 says that members of the Royal Family must have the consent of the Sovereign or Parliament to marry. Without either, the marriage and any children will not be recognised.

Brindley cites four precedents in which members of the British Royal Family have married without the proper assent, from George IV and Mrs Fitzherbert in 1795 to Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson. Charles, argues Brindley, could take Camilla out of British jurisdic-



tion — say to France — marry without royal assent but according to civil law, and then return with Camilla as his civil wife. She could then perhaps be given a courtesy title but would not have to be crowned Queen beside King Charles. Bizarre, as Brindley concedes, but perhaps the solution.

Over-aggressive paparazzi have sabotaged the attempts of Oasis singer Liam Gallagher to retrieve his lost car. So eager have they been to keep the singer's address in North London to themselves, they have torn down all the posters which Gallagher pinned near his north London home requesting the car's safe return. Gallagher has since drafted some more.

### Free reeling

REPORTERS travelling with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to

Croatia recently found themselves doubling up as his spokesmen. Cook had made a great point on his visit of talking up the importance of a free and independent media in an infant democracy. To show he was serious, he decided to give the only television interview of his trip not to the state media but to a small, struggling yet independent television station.

Unfortunately the station's youthful camera crew were more enthusiastic than competent. When they tried to play back the tape of their long interview with Cook, they found nothing but fuzz. Returning to Cook's end-of-tour press conference, they were too shy to bother the Foreign Secretary for



Lady Neubert: happy band

another interview, so it was left to the men from *The Times* and *The Economist* to explain Cook's plan for Croatia — and reiterate the importance of a free press.

Following my series on clubs for parliamentary spouses comes reassuring news from the all-action Conservative Parliamentary Wives Club, still up and running despite earlier reports. The CPWC has held steady in the water under the command of Sally Neubert, wife of Sir Michael Neubert, the former MP for Romford. Its 180-strong membership consists of wives of current and former MPs, but no husbands. "Tory husbands, unlike their Labour counterparts, do not seem to need a support group," says Lady Neubert.

### Erupting

MUTINY is fomenting on the island of Montserrat over the actions of Frank Savage, the British Governor, who failed to deal effectively with the effects of the volcanic eruptions on his patch. With British aid arriving on the volcano-lit island in agonising dribs, Savage decided to hold a drinks party for foreign aid workers last week at the island's smartest hotel, the Vue Point, which lies in the middle of a danger area.

The mass exodus from the island, however, meant there was a



Frank Savage: poor show

staff shortage. So Savage sent a party out to find waiters from among the poor wretches living in temporary shelters up the side of the volcano. Ten of them were dragged into handing round Savage's drinks.

Now Savage has decided to muscle in on a delegation of local officials who are visiting London to complain about the lack of support they have received from the Foreign Office. He will be holding private meetings prior to the delegation's ones. The feeling of an increasingly suspicious Montserrat populace is that Savage is not on side.

P.H.S

## Are the old ties fraying?

John Lloyd on our dwindling sense of union

THE Cartier tournament, English polo's premier event, was played last weekend at the Guards ground in Windsor. The Westchester Cup, for which American and English teams have competed annually for more than a century, was won for the first time in decades by the home side, 12-9.

The day was brilliant. Glossy cars were arrayed in lines, with picnickers sipping champagne between. Soldiers in dress uniform directed people to their places. The conversation was happy, the accents Home Counties, the style smart-casual. The Queen came and sat with her consort on the balcony of a little wooden pavilion by the halfway line.

When the teams came on to the field, each man cantered in a long sweep before the Queen, each swirling off his helmet in salutation. A magnificent game followed: the muscled, sweating ponies turning, racing and stopping in response to riders' commands. The players displayed the qualities of the ancient game — a demonstration of manhood and horsemanship. Here was a concentrate of a kind of Englishness.

A few days before, the plan under which power is to be devolved to a Scottish parliament had been revealed. The Scottish political establishment rejoiced. William Hague said it would be kept by a future Tory administration; the Scottish National Party said it would be supported as a gateway to greater freedoms.

In an interview earlier this week, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, told me that he had set in train a process which would revive a Scots political class, whittle down the duties of the Secretary of State for Scotland and stimulate democratic habits and civic engagement. Mr Dewar was careful to stress that it was a settlement which left sovereignty intact in Westminster: the extensive powers to be devolved — referendums permitting — would not, he said, reduce by one scintilla the essence of Westminster rule.

Yet I thought, as I strolled uncomfortably about the Guards ground, sovereignty in this country was a palimpsest, a layered and subtle concordance in which cooperation in Westminster government was resorted through a thousand shared experiences of empire and wars, of mingling of the Scots and English classes through institutions such as the military, public schools, trade unions, political parties.

The layers have long been unraveling. The shared sacrifices and triumphs are fading or discredited, the military a professionalised cadre of high competence but uncertain as to purpose, the trade unions in decline. The ties of class, the habits of command and deference, are being replaced on the side of the Scots by an insistence that an old right to statehood should take at least a quasi-statist form, and on the side of the English by a dawning realisation that some new national self-definition must be attempted.

In brief essays he wrote in the 1950s on English writers, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa, the Sicilian prince whose solitary full-length work *The Leopard* put him in the forefront of 20th-century European letters, celebrated the English habits (as he saw them) of fairness, scrupulousness, care for substance over form, understatement and pragmatism. He romanticised these to stress his contempt for the decadence, showiness, mendacity and factiousness (as he saw it) of the Italian aristocracy.

But some Scots used to agree with him about the English. John Buchan's aristocratic men of action were as at home on the grouse moor as the polo field. His proletarians and petits bourgeois, whether Cockney or Glaswegian, earned admiration by their ability to conjoin two types of patriotism — the English or Scots with the larger British. This was a world in which the dominant institutions had been recast from a purely English to an inclusive British form.

Politics now dominates in their stead. The status quo is no longer an option; Scotland cannot be denied a parliament and remain governable. But its creation is — however skillfully Dewar has framed the new settlement — a hazard. The new parliament may make the slippery slope to independence more steep. It may, on the other hand, be a medium through which the Scots soberly conclude that a Union under revised terms remains welcome to them.

The Cartier tournament, great display of manners, wealth and courage as it is, no longer functions as one of the celebrations at the apex of a British Establishment. It has been privatised and folded into the entertainment industry, a themed occasion with royal knobs on.

If we are to stay together as a nation, we cannot look to such occasions, nor to the Queen or her successor, to express a transcendent ideal any longer. We have to find it in political and personal choice, in the discovery of a preference for a state which provides a British solvent for the dear invented nationalisms of the Scots or the English, the Irish or Welsh. Or go our own ways.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.



هكذا من الأصل





## WHATEVER SIMON SAYS

The minister's holdings break the spirit of the new code

The scale of the Conservatives' defeat at the election owed something to their policies and much to their conduct. Tony Blair won on the promise of cleaner politics, "restoring the bond of trust between the British people and their Government". In yesterday's revised code of conduct on procedures for ministers, the Prime Minister writes that "we are all here to serve and we must all serve honestly and in the interests of those who gave us our positions of trust". And that, as he emphasises, means ministers working "within the letter and spirit of the Code".

The new guidelines are in many areas a tighter constraint on ministers than their predecessors. Labour has not only imported its discipline into government; it has now formalised the rules under which it operated in Opposition. So, for example, all major media interviews have to be cleared with Downing Street. So must the policy content, timing, and form of all speeches, press releases and announcements.

Departments even have to keep a record of all media contacts by ministers and officials. This borders on the absurd. The Treasury managed to do it, just, in its periods of pre-Budget purdah. But, given the number of occasions on which politicians, officials and journalists mix, either intentionally or accidentally, such a log would be immense. It is also likely to be circumvented if ministers feel spied upon.

Most topical in this document, however, is the section on ministers' private interests. This, quite correctly, errs on the side not just of probity but of perceived probity. Thus, "ministers will want to order their affairs so that no conflict arises or is thought to arise" and they should "scrupulously avoid any danger of an actual or apparent conflict of interest between their ministerial position and their private financial interests".

It is to this section that eyes are inevitably drawn where Lord Simon of Highbury's holdings of BP shares are concerned. The new Minister for European Trade and

Competitiveness, who was chairman of BP until May 1, has given us no reason to suppose that he has acted with anything other than the highest standards of probity. But his £2 million holding of BP shares undoubtedly gives rise to an apparent conflict of interest. And it is hard to deny that such a conflict "is thought to arise".

Lord Simon argues, on the opposite page, that he cannot sell his shares without being accused of insider dealing. He also considers it "not appropriate" to put them in a blind trust. He does not address the question of why he did not declare his holding in the register of Lords' interests.

Since even serving directors of companies are allowed to sell their shares after each results announcement, it seems odd that a former director should feel bound not to do so. If Lord Simon has erred on the side of caution with regard to insider dealing, he has erred on the side of inaction with regard to possible conflicts of interest. Why should it not be appropriate for his BP shares to enter the blind trust? By absconding himself from all DTI decisions relating to BP, he severely circumscribes his usefulness. BP is one of Britain's biggest companies with widespread interests.

Businessmen have always had difficulties moving into politics, usually stemming from a political culture that resented interlopers. Now that there seems to be developing a greater degree of interplay between the two worlds, it would be a pity, as Lord Simon says, if other businessmen were deterred from making the switch.

The answer is simple. The minister should rearrange his holdings so that no conflict even appears to exist. It is odd that Mr Blair has not already asked him to do so. One of the more irritating characteristics of the last Government was a reluctance to admit mistakes and a refusal to put them right until far too much damage had already been done. A new Government demands a new style of response.

## DENG'S TRICKY LEGACY

Ripples disturb the Chinese political lake

August is the month in which China's most senior leaders retreat to their private beach — to rest but also to jockey for future position. The centre of their attention is this summer's Party Congress, a five-yearly event which has been given particular significance by the death of Deng Xiaoping.

Curious ripples are disturbing the manicured surface of Chinese high politics, after months in which the official word has been one of no surprises. The political succession, with President Jiang Zemin at the "core" of a collective leadership, is asserted to have been settled by Deng long ago as for economic, the Party needs no more guidance than Deng's doctrine of "socialism with Chinese characteristics".

In fact, this Congress is an all-important political event for Mr Jiang. Although he already holds every key position, titles are a poor guide to real power in China. Deng, notably, held none after 1990. He must use the Congress to assert his authority on Party, Army and government bureaucracy and secure the most important positions for his own lieutenants. What this suggests, it is indicated, therefore, was that the inevitable battles for jobs and influence — including the premiership due to be vacated next year by the unpopular Li Peng — were to be kept firmly off-stage.

But this week Mr Jiang and senior Party ideologues have publicly advertised discord within the elite, accusing "leftists" — Marxist diehards — of attacking the strategy of economic liberalisation. Some of this may be shadow-boxing. The veteran ideologue alleged to be masterminding this revolt, Deng Ligu, and his allies are ill-placed to win over the big Party battalions. (Mao Zedong would have dismissed their strapping as "the buzzing of mayflies".)

A more powerful and more covert challenge to Mr Jiang comes from the left, but from a powerful wing of the Politburo led by Qiao Guohua and Li Rui. They are thought to favour more radical

institutional reforms than Mr Jiang, whose extreme caution has earned him the street nickname of "weather-vane".

The immediate arguments are not about policy, but power; and they will be resolved before the Congress opens. Since all the players agree that there must be no hint of a political vacuum, post-Deng, they will present a united front. The more important question, for China and the world, is whether the new leadership can muster the genuine unity of purpose that will be required to address the "social contradictions" that Mr Jiang has accused the left of exploiting.

The trickiest issue is what to do about Mao's rusting "iron rice-bowl", the vast loss-making state enterprises which consume 60 per cent of national investment and cost the country a fortune in unproductive subsidy. Zhu Rongji, the economic supremo leading the race for the premiership, has sworn to turn these behemoths around within three years; but this may be unachievable without mass privatisation. The left protests that to abandon the core doctrine of "the state-owned economy as the mainstay" would dissolve the ideology of socialism and reduce China to "an appendage of international capitalism". Moderates worry that these enterprises employ millions of mostly urban workers who, with social unrest and unemployment already on the rise, are politically risky to dismiss.

China's rapid modernisation is a phenomenal but still patchy achievement. Deng's brew of political immobilism and headlong economic growth poses intractable problems for his heirs. There is far greater cultural freedom, unmatched in the political arena; there are tensions between central government and increasingly assertive provincial authorities; and corruption has fed popular cynicism. The coming Congress will provide the first clues as to whether Deng's heirs can manage the forces unleashed in China by the success of the reforms that the master pragmatist allowed.

## IN THE FAST LANE

Current car registration is not in consumers' interests

Amid champagne and canapés smart showrooms opened at midnight to usher in the era of the R registration automobile. In the next month some 500,000 cars will leave the forecourts, 30 vehicles per working minute. An extraordinary £4.5 billion will be spent — 25 per cent of all yearly sales — largely to satisfy a certain kind of snobbery.

This may soon be history. The Department of Transport and the industry itself seem determined to end this anachronism. For 30 years, August 1 has been the most important month in the motoring calendar. This curious date emerged through a predictably British compromise. An early experiment with January 1 proved universally unpopular. Manufacturers favoured June 1, dealers fancied October 1 and Harold Wilson's Government bravely split the difference. All the indications are that this will be the last such occasion. Within weeks, a new formula is expected to be introduced setting four key dates. In March and September.

If the switch comes it will doubtless induce apoplexy in some quarters. With a double-date system, one-upmanship may never seem quite the same again, except for those

so rich that they can purchase two cars a year. But the present scramble — for all its glitz and glamour — offers little but certain exhaustion for those in the showroom. It does even less for consumers.

Car sales in Britain have a seasonal quality second only to Santa Claus. Vehicles for August are stockpiled as early as March. They sit while almost nothing is purchased in summer. Then in a rush they are released on the market. This involves £1 billion in extra paperwork. It is apparently impossible for sales outlets to cope with the influx. The RAC estimates that up to one car in four develops an early fault and returns to base by the end of September. And by October, when most continental European manufacturers launch their latest models, they are no longer even the "newest" on the market.

Customers have little to lose by changing these bizarre arrangements. The trade might look forward to a somewhat more sensible distribution of sales and the sight of the beach in August. This particular tradition should be parked with little compunction. Britain should not operate a Rolls-Royce industry on a Reliant Robin schedule.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Taking the moral view on the sale of arms overseas

From the Executive Director of Saferworld and the Policy Director of Oxfam

Sir, The Government's announcement of the new criteria governing British arms exports contains a number of positive signals. Although the qualifications identified in your leading article of July 29, "The moral arms salesman", are disappointing, the move towards stopping the export of equipment "which might be used for internal repression" gives at least some hope for the future.

We are yet to be convinced, however, by the decision that it is "unrealistic and impractical" to backdate the commitment to ending exports of repressive equipment. There is clear evidence, for example, that armoured vehicles and water cannon have been used for repression in Indonesia and their export licences should be revoked immediately.

We welcome Robin Cook's statement that "an informed public debate is the best guarantee of responsible regulation of the arms trade". However, we feel that we have not had such a debate about the export of Hawk to Indonesia.

Fears remain about the use of these aircraft for internal repression in East Timor in the past and potentially in the future. The Foreign Affairs Select Committee should establish a comprehensive inquiry into these concerns and all further exports should be suspended pending its findings.

The key to an enlightened and effective policy is to confront the tired argument "if we don't sell, others will". We welcome the Government's commitment to press for a European code of conduct "setting high common standards governing arms exports".

Day after day, we and the people with whom we work have witnessed the devastating consequences of an unethical arms trade. The forthcoming UK presidency of the EU provides an ideal opportunity to introduce a restrictive code, even when this may have commercial costs.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL EAVIS,  
Executive Director, Saferworld,  
DIANNA MELROSE,  
Policy Director, Oxfam,  
Saferworld,  
33-34 Alfred Place, WC1.  
July 30.

From Lord Jakobovits

Sir, The spirit of Britain's new "ethical" foreign policy, heralded with such bravado, turns out to be rather damp. To prevent arms supplies being used for internal oppression is but one aspect of the moral challenge.

The ultimate evil is surely the arms trade at large. Since the Second World War, no one has died through the proliferation of atomic weapons. But millions, tens of millions, have per-

ished through conventional arms peddled by the world's great arms producers.

Worse still, the arms trade has ruined the economies of scores of nations which have spent their scarce resources on buying arms rather than on growing crops or on investing in trade and self-sufficiency. Thus does the arms trade cause wars, famine, and poverty, sinking potentially prosperous lands into utter destitution.

One always hears two arguments to justify the curse of the arms trade. If we did not sell the arms, others would; and our own armaments industry depends on these sales. According to the first, you might as well encourage the Government to push drugs. As to the second, it is never moral to help kill others in order to save your own life, let alone to advance your economy.

Let Britain pioneer universal agreement to ban the sale and shipment of arms, gradually transforming the vast investment of money and brainpower to better medical or educational care. If we cannot overnight beat our swords into ploughshares, we can make an immediate start by putting a strict arms control on the international agenda as a key to saving and improving countless millions of lives.

Yours sincerely,  
JAKOBOVITS,  
House of Lords,  
July 30.

### Plight of detainee

From Mrs Annie Anderson

Sir, Mr Mario Carneiro's plight as an asylum-seeker held in Winslow Green Prison, Birmingham, under the Immigration Act (letter, July 29) is unacceptable.

In 1994 the Home Office agreed that an inner-city prison was an inappropriate place to hold detainees. Additional accommodation was created in detention centres and since then detainees have no longer been held at Pentonville, north London.

Winslow Green or Pentonville — the principle remains the same.

Yours faithfully,  
ANNIE ANDERSON,  
Chairman, Board of Visitors,  
HMP Pentonville, 1993-96,  
2 Barnsbury Terrace, NI,  
July 29.

### Hong Kong officials

From the Secretary for the Civil Service, Hong Kong

Sir, Jonathan Miskin's comments in his report headed "HK shuffle ordered by Beijing" (July 29, later editions), are somewhat misplaced.

Article 48 (5) of the Basic Law (Hong Kong's "mini-constitution") specifies that all principal officials are nominated by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) and appointed by the Central People's Government of China (CPG).

What happened was exactly that. The Chief Executive made the nominations, which were then accepted by the CPG. The announcements were made by both Beijing and Hong Kong on the same day (July 29).

The reason for the time gap of about 30 minutes between the two announcements was the fact that Hong Kong's statement was much more detailed. We had not synchronised the timing of both announcements to the minute.

The respective powers of the CPG and HKSARG in this area are defined clearly in the Basic Law and are well understood in Hong Kong.

Mr Miskin's contention that "Beijing publicly humiliated the Hong Kong Government" and that "this new demonstration of where ultimate power lies in Hong Kong affairs will alarm people here" are unfounded.

Yours sincerely,  
W. K. LAM,  
Secretary for the Civil Service,  
Central Government Offices,  
Lower Albert Road, Hong Kong,  
July 30.

### Radio 3 changes

From Captain M. R. Hare, RN

Sir, I am astonished at the volume and venom of your correspondents' criticisms of Radio 3's policy and performance (letters, July 24, 26).

I have no less pleasure now, listening to Radio 3, than I did nearly fifty years ago when I first heard the Third Programme. Whether or not catchy tunes are given to programmes seems to me to be of minimum importance: it is the content which matters and it seems to me that pure enjoyment has never been available in such copious measure as now.

Be heartened, Mr Kenyon — not all your listeners are critics who harken back to some golden age which never really existed.

Yours etc,  
MICHAEL HARE,  
Pathways, 19 Beatty Drive,  
Alverstoke, Gosport, Hampshire,  
July 26.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### Assistance on floods in East Europe

From the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

Sir, Your leading article today, "After the flood", claims that "the most insidious and perhaps the greatest damage will be to the political confidence, within and between Germany and its neighbours". I feel this is less than fair. On the contrary, neighbourly help across the river has been spontaneous and substantial.

Already more than DM4 million from official funds and DM12 million from private initiatives have reached Poland, as well as large amounts of equipment, machinery and technical help, including specialised materials to preserve valuable documents and cultural artefacts exposed to the floods. It is fair to say that no other European country has offered even remotely comparable assistance.

The German Red Cross has opened a centre to house flood refugees and to provide fresh water supplies in Poland. It has also launched a nationwide appeal in Germany for funds under the slogan "Neighbours in Need" to provide emergency aid in Poland. Mr Andrzej Byrt, Ambassador of Poland in Germany, has publicly stated his appreciation, saying that: "A friend in need is a friend indeed. The Germans have given us solid assistance."

The record of German willingness to put first things first and alleviate sufferings among its neighbours is there for all to see.

Yours sincerely,  
JURGEN OESTERHELT,  
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany,  
23 Belgrave Square, SW1,  
July 30.

From the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland

Sir, Writing well into the fourth week of the flooding in Poland and other Central European countries, you are right to point to the enormous toll exacted by the floods. You are also right to draw attention to the significance of intergovernmental co-operation in the region.

You are quite wrong, however, if you believe that such a flood in

Poland, "merciless" as it is, can sweep away seven years of Herculean efforts to reform the economy; and you are quite wrong to believe that any amount of rainfall could stop — "at the water's edge" — the development of the Polish-German co-operation.

I am particularly concerned by your speculation about "further delays to the great political project of European Union enlargement". Loss of confidence in the enlargement of Nato and the EU would be potentially more dangerous than the floods or the consequences thereof on the ground.

Yours sincerely,  
RYSZARD STEPIŃSKI,  
Embassy of the Republic of Poland,  
47 Portland Place, W1,  
July 30.

From Mr Grainger Davies

Sir, Though rainfall of unusual severity and persistence over a wide area was undoubtedly the major cause of the flooding in Eastern Europe, the level of investment and standard of maintenance of flood defences was also a factor. It is therefore right to question whether we in Britain are better placed to respond in similar circumstances.

The Environment Agency has a huge maintenance task in England and Wales. Here in East Anglia there are 11,600km of river banks and 1,500km of tidal, estuary and sea defences requiring an annual budget of £61 million, only possible through the will of county councils and MAFF to approve the expenditure.

The sad images of the Oder valley bring home the importance of devoting resources on a continuing basis to flood-warning systems and to protection works, be they flood banks, sluices or sea walls. Maintenance and construction of flood defences are essential, even in the heat of an English summer.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAINGER DAVIES,  
(Regional General Manager),  
The Environment Agency —  
Anglian Region,  
Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way,  
Orton Goldhay, Cambridgeshire,  
July 29.

### Turkey and EU

From Lord Hylton

Sir, I regret that Dr David Shankland (letter, July 23) should take an over-optimistic view of Turkey. The reality is that civilian governments come and go, but power remains in the hands of the National Security Council, in which the Armed Forces are dominant.

As a result military solutions are sought, whether in Cyprus, northern Iraq, or against the Kurds. The internal armed conflict with the latter has lasted 13 years, leading to some 12,000 deaths, the destruction of thousands of villages and the displacement of over two-and-a-half million people.

Political parties advocating minority rights and negotiated solutions are suppressed and MPs, authors and journalists are frequently imprisoned. Conditions in police stations and prisons are bad, with torture and extra-judicial killing still widespread, in spite of cases being taken to the European Court of Human Rights.

The consequences of heavy military expenditure are inflation at nearly 80 per cent a year, massive state debts and a steadily depreciating currency. The one hope is that Turkish industry and commerce, as well as trades unions, are beginning to see the need for civilian control, the rule of law and fair treatment for minorities. I trust that their view will prevail and eventually make Turkey a proper candidate for EU membership.

Yours faithfully,  
HYLTON,  
House of Lords.

### A fitting memorial

From the Reverend Dr Peter Jupp

Sir, A man and his family are certainly free to choose minimal funeral rites (letter, July 28). Well might an architect's children claim for him *si monumentum requiris, circumspice* in respectful echo of the tribute in St Paul's to Sir Christopher Wren, attributed to his son.

But what of those who regret the lack of a memorial or who have forgotten, or never known, where their dead may lie?

Cemetery superintendents are often contacted by members of the public searching for the lost grave of a relative. The reasons for their search are complex, private, often pressing. We all owe debts to the dead, even though they will not have expected us to honour them all.

At present, death certificates contain no details about the funeral which might help descendants to seek lost graves. After the funeral, the Registrar of Deaths is always provided with information about the date of the funeral, the mode of disposal of the body and the cemetery or crematorium involved. Future printings of the Registrar's forms could easily provide space to record this information.

We make this recommendation in our *Dead Citizens Charter*.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER C. JUPP,  
(Director),  
The National Funerals College,  
Braddon House, High Street,  
Duddingston, Edinburgh, Lincolshire,  
July 28.

### PoWs decry 'bitter blow' of lost pay

From Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Spooner and others

Sir, The announcement (report, July 25) that some 14,000 Second World War veterans who were held in German and Italian prison camps will receive not one penny of the lost pay due to them comes as a bitter blow. The decision by civil servants (Ministry of Defence historians), most of whom were probably unborn when we were languishing in captivity, seems to us arbitrary and capricious.

Not having read their lengthy review, we can only surmise that the findings turn on our collective inability to prove conclusively that we never received the full (or in some cases any) camp pay from our captors, and which was thus wrongfully deducted from our home pay.

Pathetically, the Government and their mandarins hide behind the excuse that all the pay records were destroyed after six years. The onus for doing this devolves squarely on the Government of the day, and for veterans to suffer as a result of such gross incompetence is totally unjust.

Perhaps the bitter truth is that the Second World War is ancient history, and therefore of little consequence, to the ministers and mandarins who control our destinies. They have allowed this matter to drag on interminably, well aware that the problem will be solved by the law of natural attrition.

For Mr John Speller, the Under-Secretary of State for Defence, to say that "those people who have had their hopes raised will be very disappointed" (surely the understatement of the year) only adds insult to injury. For many the financial loss will be distressing, for us all the question of principle is of paramount concern.

Justice and fair play were once watchwords of the British ethic, but faceless British bureaucrats have ducked their duty. Now, we feel, is the time to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights to administer the justice due to those who fought for freedom all those years ago.

We are, Sir, yours sincerely,  
A. P. SPOONER,  
(PoW, Italy, 1942-43),  
DESMOND BUCHANAN  
(PoW, Italy, 1942-43),  
TONY DAVIES  
(PoW, Italy/Germany, 1942-45),  
MICHAEL GILBERT  
(PoW, Italy, 1943),  
ERIC NEWBY  
(PoW, Italy/Germany, 1942-45),  
22 Broadwater Rise,  
Guildford, Surrey,  
July 29.

### Word perfect

From Mr Ted Whybrow

Sir, Mr Kevin Grant's new term "nocompute" (letter, July 30) is to be welcomed, but he seems to use it to describe someone with an extreme form of "incompetence".

Does it not better describe those individuals whose working and social lives are wholly dominated by webs, modems and their like?

Yours faithfully,  
TED WHYBROW,  
31 Hanover Gardens, SE11,  
July 30.

From Mr John Gudgeon

Sir, As the French call the computer *l'ordinateur*, why not "ordinate" or "inordinate" for those who understand them or don't?

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN GUDGEON,  
2 Clackclose Road,  
Dorchester, Dorset,  
July 30.

### A roof for the dome

From Mr Len Evans

Sir, I gather that there is a problem in covering the proposed millennium dome with PVC (letter, July 31).

This could be solved by using the best rural practice and covering the dome with grass or reeds. It would also make good use of the skills of unemployed thatchers who are wasting their skills elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,  
LEN EVANS,  
25 Kirton Road, Scotter, Lincolnshire.

### Sporting psalm

From the Reverend John Fletcher

Sir, Mr Anthony Bosanquet (letter, July 25) wonders if Tate and Brady's version of Psalm 42 is destined to join the ranks of the politically incorrect. Smoking restrictions may, alas, add Coverdale's prayerbook version of Psalm 150 to his list — "praise him on the strings and pipe".

However, all is not lost for Mr Bosanquet's friend, whose favourite hymn is *All things bright and beautiful*; perhaps a politically correct version of the verse about the rich man in his castle might run as follows:

The poor man in his castle,  
The rich man at his gate,  
The charge is £4.50  
to visit the estate.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN FLETCHER,  
10 St Chad's Road,  
Chadwell Heath, Essex,  
July 26.





## COURT CIRCULAR

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

July 31: His Excellency Señor Carlos Morales-Landivar and Señora de Morales were received in audience by the Queen upon their appointment as British High Commissioners to the Republic of Bolivia to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency Mr Mohamed Shaker and Mrs Shaker were received in audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Court of St James's.

The following were received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon their appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassadors: Mr Victor Henderson (designate to the Republic of Yemen) and Mr Robin Christopher (the Republic of Indonesia).

Mrs Henderson and Mrs Chris-

topher were also received by Her Majesty.

The following were received in audience by the Queen upon their appointment as British High Commissioners to the Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Mrs Walker and Mrs Williams were also received by Her Majesty.

Mr Anthony Abbott was received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor designate to Montserrat. Mrs Abbott was also received by Her Majesty.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Commander-in-Chief, this morning visited the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at Arborfield, Reading, Royal County of Berkshire.

July 31: The Duke of York gave a Dinner at Sunninghill Park this evening in aid of the American Air Museum in Britain.

## Today's royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open the American Air Museum in Britain at Duxford at 2.15. The Duke of York and the Duke of Kent, as president, Imperial War Museum, will attend.

The Duke of York will visit the Jubilee Sailing Trust at the Jubilee Yard, Woolston, Southampton, at 5.10.

Princess Margaret, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Anglian Regiment, will visit the 1st Battalion and attend the Minden Day parade at Oakington Barracks, Cambridge, at 1.30.

The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, will take the salute at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo at 9.00pm.

## Birthdays today

Mr Lionel Bart, composer, 87; Mr Derek Birdsell, graphic designer and typographer, 63; Miss Janet Gough, High Mistress, St Paul's Girls' School, 57; Mr Frank Hauser, theatre director, 75; Dr David Jasper, former Principal, St Chad's College, Durham, 46; Sir Richard Lloyd Jones, civil servant, 84; Professor M. S. Losovsky, Professor of Medicine, 66; Major-General R.C. Macdonald, 80; Professor W.H. Morris-Jones, former director, Institute of Commonwealth Affairs, 79; Professor R.C. Roberts, Emeritus Professor of Industrial Relations, 80; M Yves Saint Laurent, fashion designer, 61; the Right Rev Professor Stephen Sykes, Bishop of Ely, 58; Professor Laurie Taylor, sociologist, 61; Mr Robert Thompson, 71; Mr John Tomlinson, MEP, 58; Mr G.E. Ward Thomas, chairman, Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, 74.

## University news

**Cambridge**  
St Catherine's College  
The following elections have been made:  
Dr P.D. Wodhams, Senior Research Fellow (From May 1, 1997)  
Mr K.J. Dalton, Official Fellow (From July 1, 1997)  
Dr J.C. Vassiliou, Official Fellow and Mr D.C. Aldridge, Mr R.W. Dance, Mr R.P. Davies, Research Fellows (From October 1, 1997).

## Appointments

Dr Onora O'Neill, FBA, to be a Trustee of the Nuffield Foundation and to become Chairman on the retirement of Lord Flowers, FRSE, next year.

Dr Alan Rudge, FRSE, Deputy Chief Executive, British Telecommunications, to be a Commissioner of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1992 and a member of the Board of Management.

## Election

**Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies**  
Dr Robert Lloyd-Roberts has been elected Chairman of the Council of the Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies.

## Legal appointment

Mr Justice Jacob to be a Chancery Supervising Judge for Bristol, Cardiff and Birmingham from October 1.

## Retirements

Judge Wright has retired from the Western Circuit and Judge Nugent from the Eastern Circuit Bench.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:**  
Richard Wilson, landscape painter, Penegoes, Powys, 1714; Jean Baptiste de Lamarck, naturalist, Beaumont, France, 1744; William Clark, explorer, Caroline County, Virginia, 1770; Francis Scott Key, poet, Carroll County, Maryland, 1779; Richard Henry Dana, novelist, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1815; Herman Melville, writer, New York, 1819; James Grant, novelist, Edinburgh, 1822.

**DEATHS:**  
Queen Anne, reigned 1702-14, London, 1714; Richard Savage, poet, Bristol, 1743; Elizabeth Inchbald, novelist, dramatist and

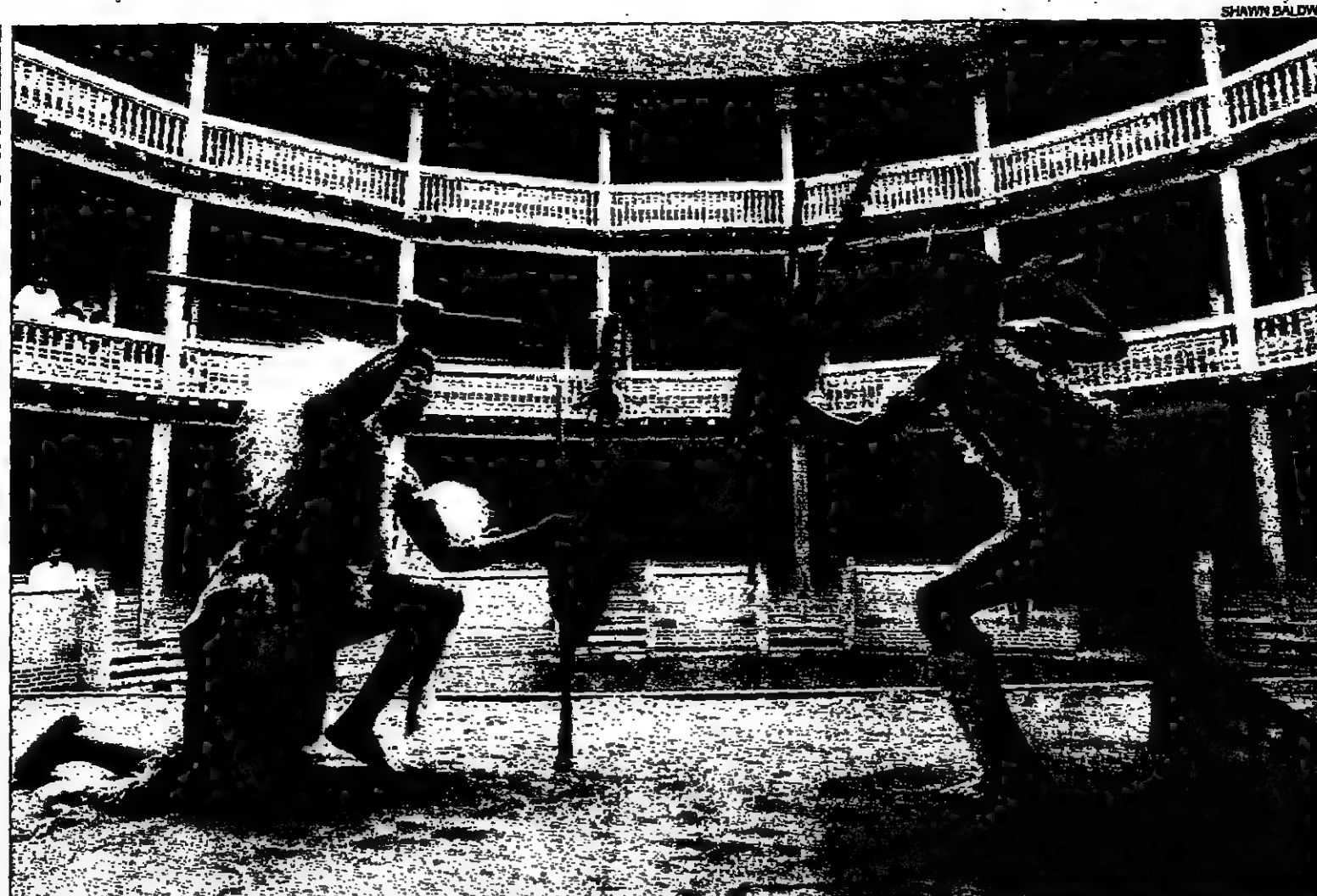
actress, London, 1821; Robert Morrison, founder of Protestant missions in China, Canton, 1834; Israel Zangwill, writer, Zionist and philanthropist, London, 1926; Theodore Roethke, poet, Washington, 1963; Walter Ulbricht, chairman, Council of State, German Democratic Republic 1960-73, East Berlin, 1973.

Nelson defeated the French at the Battle of the Nile, 1798.

Slavery was abolished in the British Empire, 1834.

Germany declared war on Russia, 1914.

The Warsaw Rising began, 1944.



Actors rehearsing a fight in *Umabatha: the Zulu Macbeth* at the Globe Theatre, London, yesterday. The play, performed in Zulu, opens on Monday.

## Carpenters' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Carpenters' Company for the ensuing year:  
Master, Mr H.M. Neal; Senior Warden, Mr V.G. Morton-Smith; Middle Warden, Mr N.B.C. Eveleigh; Junior Warden, Mr C.W. Preston.

## Plumbers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Plumbers' Company for the ensuing year:  
Master, Mr P.R. Brunner; Upper Warden, Mr E.W. Hopkinson; Renter Warden, Mr J.H. Mayfield.

## Blacksmiths' Company

The following have been installed officers of the Blacksmiths' Company for the ensuing year:  
Prime Warden, Mr Timothy S. Herring; Renter Warden, Mr James M. Latham; Third Warden, Mr Rodney Lyons; Fourth Warden, Mr Hugh A.E. Adams.

## Joiners and Ceilars' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Joiners and Ceilars' Company for the ensuing year:  
Master, Mr Clive Alexander Capel; Upper Warden, Mr Thomas Frederick Knowles; Renter Warden, Mr Richard William Edward Rogan.

## Weavers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Weavers' Company for the ensuing year:  
Upper Bailiff, Mr N.R. Winkerton, MR; Renter Bailiff, the Hon C.W.M. Cluibe; Upper Warden, Miss P.M.C. Winkerton; Renter Warden, Mr J.F. Nugie.

## Archaeology

## Did the early Greeks simply copy the pyramids of Egypt?

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTIFIC dating of two unusual miniature pyramids in southern Greece suggests that the legendary origin reported by the ancient writer Pausanias may have a factual basis. The dates, more than 4,000 years old, also raise the intriguing possibility of early Greeks imitating the pyramids of Egypt.

The pyramids, at Helinikon and Ligourio in the Argolid region of the Peloponnese west of Athens, have been known for centuries, and are mentioned in Pausanias' famous peregrination of Greece in the second century. Excavations earlier this century yielded pottery of the 4th century BC, from around the time of Alexander the Great, and the pyramids were therefore assumed to be of this period, although both older and more recent sherds were also found.

Both pyramids, which are about the size of a large room, have four sloping sides, like those of Egypt, and would probably have been built in a steeply built limestone blocks, and it is these that have provided Dr P.S. Theocaris and his colleagues with the key to dating the monuments.

They employed the principle of thermoluminescence (TL), whereby the accumulation of electrons in light-sensitive traps in crystals of calcite at the surface of the stone is measured as they are expelled by heating in the laboratory.

The thermoluminescence method was originally developed for distinguishing ancient from modern firing of pottery, and the detection of fakes, but has become a well-established dating tool over the past three decades.

Dr Theocaris's group argued that when the limestone blocks for the pyramids were being cut to shape, the fresh surfaces would have been exposed to sunlight for at least a day.

This would have "bleached" electrons from the surface crystals: when the blocks were then set in place, most of these surfaces would have been sealed from light, with the additional protection of the thin layer of mortar between the stones.

Experiment with a Mycenaean wall, dated archaeologically to around 1280 BC, yielded a thermoluminescence date of 1110 plus or minus 340 BC, suggesting that the method of dating crystals scraped from a sealed block was valid. Six dates from the Helinikon pyramid averaged 2730 BC, plus or minus some 700 years, making it between four and five thousand years old.

One date from the Ligourio pyramid, which has been almost demolished, was of 2260 BC, with a similar margin of error. Pottery of this "proto-Helladic" period was in fact found in the early excavations at Helinikon, indicating that the site was occupied then, although lack-

ing so far from Ligourio. The early dating suggested by the thermoluminescence analyses has refocused attention on Pausanias' account, in which he reported that the Helinikon pyramid was a monument to the fratricidal battle between Proetus and Acrisius, grandsons of Danaos, the king of Argos. They were claimants to the throne of Tiryns and Mycenae, cities notable in the Bronze Age but long abandoned by Pausanias' time, when he retailed a history that had already passed into myth.

The thermoluminescence dates now suggest that the two pyramids are a millennium older than the Mycenaean of Agamemnon and the apparent date of the Trojan War, and do indeed belong to that legendary age. They would also be more or less coeval with the great Egyptian pyramids of Giza, which were built in 2600-2500 BC, and are, in miniature, strikingly similar constructions.

Although early monumental architecture is known from the Aegean, and contact between Greece, Egypt and Asia is well-documented from the Minoan and Mycenaean periods, such precise copying of exotic architecture is striking. The thermoluminescence dating suggests that intellectual as well as commercial currents were flowing across the east Mediterranean.

Source: *Journal of Archaeological Science* 24:399-405.

## University news

**King's College London**  
The college has announced the election of its new Fellows in 1997. Nine of them, and one Fellow elected in 1996, received their Fellowship at graduation ceremonies at the Royal Festival Hall last week.

The 1997 Fellows of King's are as follows:

Professor Struther Arnot, FRSE, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of St Andrews, and former member of the MRC Biophysics Unit at King's College, London.

Professor Robert Hilder, Head of the School of Life, Basic Medical and Health Sciences, King's College, London.

Professor Robert Hill, Head of the School of Physical Sciences and Engineering, King's College, London.

Professor Stephen Mason, FRSE, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, King's College, London.

Professor Alan McGregor, Professor of Medicine, King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry.

The Right Rev Njongonkulu Winnie Ndangwa, Archbishop of Cape Town, alumnus of King's.

Sir Richard Sykes, Chairman and Chief Executive of Glaxo Wellcome, alumnus of Queen Elizabeth College (which merged with King's in 1982).

Professor Brian Trowell, Heather Professor of Music Emeritus, University of Oxford, former King Edward Professor of Music and Head of the Department of Music, King's College, London.

Professor John Uff, QC, Director of the Centre for Construction Law and Management, King's College, London, barrister and engineer.

Professor Robert Sumner, FRSE, Professor of Biophysics and Director of the Randall Institute at King's College London, who was elected a Fellow of the College in 1996, also received his Fellowship last week.

Two members of King's staff received the DSc (highest doctorate):

Professor Tom Sanders, Head of the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, and Dr John Wright, Lecturer in the Division of Life Sciences.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. Tabain and the Hon Isabelle Johnstone. The engagement is announced between Nikola, only son of Mr Hugo Tabain and Mrs Miroslava Tabain, of Melbourne, Australia, and Isabelle, youngest daughter of Lord and Lady Desmont, of Hackness, North Yorkshire.

Mr P. Alexander and Miss M. Buxter. The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mrs D.P. Alexander, of Highgate, London, and Melanie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Kevin Buxter, of Dublin, Ireland.

Mr I.T. Bird and Miss W.M. Pankhurst. The engagement is announced between Ian, second son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Bird, of Plymouth, and Wendy, younger daughter of Mr Ken Pankhurst and Mrs Jean Pankhurst, both of Surrey.

Mr G.E.S. Colman and Miss A.M. Kennedy. The engagement is announced between Guy, only son of the late Dr Rodney Colman and of Mrs Margaret Colman, of Wimbledon, and Anouka, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kennedy, of Belfast, County Down.

Mr A.J. Cross and Dr E.A. Jones. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs A.W. Cross, of Dhooon, Irby, Warral, and Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A.R. Jones, of Merida, Nacogurum, Berkshire.

Mr R.N. Edwards and Miss S.K. Wallis. The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Edwards, of Berkhams, Berkshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Wallis, of Weston, Berkshire.

Mr R.P. Hooley and Miss J.K. le Poer Trench. The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs Philip Hooley, of Vauxhall, Kent, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian le Poer Trench, of Moxton, Hampshire.

Mr N.G.S. Lawrence and Miss C. McNaughton. The engagement is announced between Nick, son of Jean and John Lawrence, of Barmouth, and Claire, only daughter of Pamela and David McNaughton, of Twickenham.

Mr M.J. O'Donnell and Miss P.J. Gibson. The engagement is announced between Matthew, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.D. O'Donnell, of Oatfield, Surrey, formerly of Waterloo, Belgium, and Pippa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs M.W. Gibson, of Kewstons, Hants.

Mr C.R.B. Plesner and Miss E.J. Beaudry. The engagement is announced between Charles, second son of Mr and Mrs Richard Plesner, of Walsingham, Norfolk, and Emma, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs E.J. Beaudry, of Walsingham, Norfolk.

Mr R.A. Plesner and Miss E.J. Beaudry. The engagement is announced between Bruno, eldest son of Dr and Mrs M. Plesner, of Walsingham, Norfolk, and Emma, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs E.J. Beaudry, of Walsingham, Norfolk.

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BMDs: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313

You have established your people as your own for ever and ever. Love, have become their God. 2 Samuel 7: 24

## BIRTHS

**BANKS** - On July 28th 1997, to Lady (Mrs) Banks and Mr. Banks, a son, James.

**BENNETT** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Bennett, a daughter, Emily.

**CAMPBELL** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Campbell and Mrs. Campbell, a son, James.

**CLARK** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Clark and Mrs. Clark, a daughter, Emily.

**COHEN** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Cohen and Mrs. Cohen, a son, James.

**COOPER** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Cooper and Mrs. Cooper, a daughter, Emily.

**GRAY** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Gray and Mrs. Gray, a son, James.

**HARRISON** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Harrison, a daughter, Emily.

**MAYO** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Mayo and Mrs. Mayo, a son, James.

**MULLEN** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Mullen and Mrs. Mullen, a daughter, Emily.

**NASH** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Nash and Mrs. Nash, a son, James.

**WATSON** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Watson and Mrs. Watson, a daughter, Emily.

**WILLIAMS** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Williams and Mrs. Williams, a son, James.

**WYATT** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Wyatt and Mrs. Wyatt, a daughter, Emily.

**YOUNG** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Young and Mrs. Young, a son, James.

**ZIMMERMAN** - On July 28th 1997, to Mr. Zimmerman and Mrs. Zimmerman, a daughter, Emily.

**BIRTHS**  
On July 28th 1997, to Mr. and Mrs. [Name], a son, [Name].

**BIRTHS**  
On July 28th 1997, to Mr. and Mrs. [Name], a daughter, [Name].

**BIRTHS**  
On July 28th 1997, to Mr. and Mrs. [Name], a son, [Name].

**BIRTHS**  
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**BIRTHS**  
On July 28th 1997, to Mr. and Mrs. [Name], a son, [Name].

**DEATHS**  
On July 28th 1997, [Name], aged [Age], died.

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**DEATHS**  
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**DEATHS</**



## OBITUARIES

## LORD GOOLD

Lord Goold, chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party, 1983-90, died of lung cancer on July 27 aged 63. He was born on May 28, 1934.

Jim Goold devoted much of his life to the Conservative cause in Scotland, during a period when the party's support was draining inexorably away. He enjoyed considerable influence with Margaret Thatcher, who placed great trust in him; but his attempts to convince Scotland of the benefits and merits of her revolution were unsuccessful. The decisive miscalculation of their joint strategy was the introduction of the poll tax in Scotland in time for the general election of 1987.

James Duncan Goold was a scion of the West of Scotland's old mercantile class, Protestant and Unionist, and he remained true to its values all his life. Educated at Glasgow Academy, he qualified as a chartered accountant and practised in New Zealand and Australia before returning to enter the construction industry, becoming managing director of the Glasgow construction company MacTaggart & Mickel, and later its chairman.

Although he was active on industry committees, he will be remembered as one of the most significant, if least known, figures in Scottish politics of the 1980s. As an office-holder in his constituency party in East Renfrewshire, he had formed a close bond with Betty Harvie Anderson, who led the internal Unionist opposition to Edward Heath's decision in 1968 to commit the Tories to home rule.

Indeed, Harvie Anderson was one of the more powerful voices that succeeded in persuading Mrs Thatcher, when she became Leader of the Opposition, that home rule was splitting the party in Scotland, and should be dropped. This was duly done — to the embarrassment of some of the party's most prominent Scottish spokesmen — after Mrs Thatcher formed her first administration in 1979.

First as chairman of the CBI in Scotland from 1981-83, and then as chairman of the Scottish Conservative Party from 1983 to 1990, Goold not only enjoyed considerable standing with rank-and-file Tories, but had the ear of Mrs Thatcher. Critics said this was because he told her what she wanted to hear; a more perceptive



analysis was that their prejudices coincided.

The old mercantile Unionists combined a belief in free enterprise with a suspicion of Labour councils and trade unions. They stood out in marked contrast to the party's patrician wing, with whom Mrs Thatcher had little in common and which, after the 1987 general election, she came to despise. Goold also possessed discretion, loyalty, and — unusually for a politician — was singularly free from egotism.

The 1980s were a difficult period for the Scottish party, which as recently as 1955 had commanded more than 50 per cent of the popular vote and more than half the parliamentary seats north of

the border. Traditional industries were disappearing, which was scarcely propitious for the restoration of Tory fortunes, but the most serious problems arose with the poll tax. Under pressure from professional valuers, the Scottish Office failed to postpone the quinquennial rating revaluation. This meant swinging increases in the business rate and uproar among traditional Tory voters in Scotland.

One of the ironies of the whole fiasco was that the tax was levied on the Scots before the English or the Welsh because senior Scottish Tories saw in it their salvation — not, as the more suspicious Scots believed, because Mrs Thatcher had it in for them. In

particular, the poll tax, with its theoretically greater accountability, appealed to Conservatives such as Goold, who resented what they saw as the profligate use by Labour councils of other people's money.

But it was a political disaster, and the party was duly punished in the election of 1987, when its parliamentary representation was cut from 21 to ten. For Mrs Thatcher the obvious scapegoats were the Scottish Office, of whose civil servants she was suspicious, and the then Secretary of State for Scotland, Malcolm Rifkind.

Goold would have been less than human had he not felt discouraged. About this time he congratulated a friend who had taken on an onerous and controversial post: Goold said that he was delighted to know that he no longer had "the worst job in Scotland".

In 1989 he handed over his honorary position to a new chairman-designate, Michael Forsyth, whose attempts to renovate the party machine provoked much bad feeling internally, and hardly improved the Tories' electoral fortunes.

If Goold hoped for a more peaceful time when, a couple of years later, he took over the chairmanship of the Royal Scottish Orchestra, he was to be disappointed. The orchestra was embroiled in internal strife, and Goold had to take a great deal of public flak. Before he stepped down in 1993, he uncharacteristically gave vent to his private irritation. "It hasn't been much of a job," he said. "You don't get paid a halfpenny for it."

At the beginning of this year he returned from a Caribbean holiday with what he thought was a chest infection. In fact, he had cancer in both lungs. He bore his final illness bravely, with a touch of bitterness that a disease associated with smoking should strike a man who had never smoked in his life. He was unable this summer to fulfil his duties as Lord High Commissioner of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, duties which were carried out instead by Lord Macfarlane.

Goold was knighted in 1983 and became a life peer in 1987. He was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire in 1994. He was active in the leadership of the Boys' Brigade and in many charities.

His wife died in 1992. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

## PROFESSOR GEORGE DICK

George Dick, Professor of Pathology at London University, 1966-73, died on July 3 aged 82. He was born in Glasgow on August 14, 1914.

GEORGE DICK was a great virologist and researcher. When he graduated, the only known human viruses were yellow fever, smallpox and influenza, but over the following fifty years he made fundamental contributions to expanding this branch of knowledge. He had a wide range of research interests, including vaccine development and vaccination policies against, for instance, smallpox, polio and whooping cough, and he continued to work on multiple sclerosis until very recently.

He was the author or editor of several books and of more than 200 scientific publications, and an adviser to the British Government, the World Health Organisation and many other bodies around the world. He was concerned not only with discovery but also with ensuring that public health policies reflected the latest scientific thinking.

George Williamson Auchinvoide Dick was educated at the Royal High School in Edinburgh, going on from there to Edinburgh University, where he completed degrees in medicine and science and was awarded the Buchanan medal. He had planned to specialise in obstetrics after supervising a successful breech delivery in a shepherd's cottage. But the Second World War forced him, like many of his generation, to alter his plans.

In 1941 he found himself in what was then Abyssinia and British and Italian Somaliland, with wide-ranging responsibilities for laboratories and laboratory services. He travelled extensively in the region, with a small team and his faithful companion Tabu, a black Labrador. In the period

immediately after the war he contributed to some seminal investigations on the vector of tick typhus in Kenya and on the epidemiology of polio in Mauritius.

He continued to work in East Africa for a number of years, succeeded by the Colonial Medical Research Service to the Rockefeller Foundation's yellow fever research laboratory in Entebbe, Uganda, where he made some key



contributions to understanding the natural history of the fever and its prevention by immunisation. These were exciting times, often spent working "on safari". Dick had recently married, and he and his wife Brenda embraced the opportunities enthusiastically.

From Uganda, they moved to the United States, where Dick worked at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. This was a very productive period for him, and he made a number of lifelong friends.

After a brief period at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill, London, 1951-53, Dick devoted twenty years to research, teaching and the development of pathology services. From 1953 to 1965 he built up a new Department of Microbiology at The Queen's University, Belfast. He was subsequently Director of the Bland Sutton Institute at

the Middlesex Hospital, as well as holding the Bland Sutton Chair of Pathology at London University from 1965 to 1973.

Then in 1973, at an age when most people are planning their retirement, he was appointed assistant director of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation. He threw himself into some of the new challenges, particularly focusing on ways to strengthen general practice and improve health professionals' access to information through the medical library services.

When he was finally forced to retire officially, he created the Medical Advisory and Research Consultancy Group, which provided postgraduate medical advice and support for a number of countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Dick was also a gifted teacher and an innovative and effective manager. He was a pragmatic and self-critical thinker and exhibited a number of the characteristics for which his Covenantor ancestors were famous: a rebellious nature, strong convictions and a recognition of the importance of being true to one's principles. These were among the reasons why he founded the Rowhook Medical Society, which invited like-minded iconoclasts to meet once a year at his home in Sussex to challenge and be challenged — and, of course, to enjoy the hospitality for which he and his wife were renowned.

Apart from his work, his family and his involvement with Amnesty International, campaigning against nuclear and anti-personnel weapons and fighting for other social causes, his great love was his garden. His hard work and creativity live on not only in the field of medicine but also in the fields around his 16th-century farm house in Sussex, which at this time of year burst with life and colour.

George Dick is survived by his wife, Brenda, two sons and two daughters.

## FAITH JAQUES



Faith Jaques, author and illustrator, died on July 12 aged 73. She was born in Leicester on December 13, 1923.

MENTION Mr Toad or Winnie-the-Pooh to most people and they will think immediately not of the words of Kenneth Grahame or A. A. Milne, but of the illustrations by E. H. Shepherd. Faith Jaques recognised the importance of this, and as an illustrator for all her working life she was tenacious in the quest to make agents and publishers acknowledge it and reward more fully the "unashamed accompanist".

As a member of the Society of Authors, she was a leading figure in campaigns to ensure that artists are included alongside authors in royalty agreements, and have continuing rights in their artwork after its use by publishers. When the legislation to establish Public

Lending Right was under discussion, she was again among those who successfully negotiated the inclusion of illustrators within the arrangement designed to recompense authors according to the frequency with which their work is borrowed from public libraries.

Faith Jaques had a comfortable, if restricted, childhood and youth, moving from Wyggeston Grammar School to the Leicester College of Art. Her war service was intellectually stimulating. She joined the Wrens, but found herself aloof in the Bodleian Library, helping to realise the strategic potential of its substantial photographic holdings. However, when she resumed her studies in London, at the Central School of Arts and Crafts, she encountered all the routine privations of student life — and subsequently the freelance's lot.

A slim grant of £4 a week ate

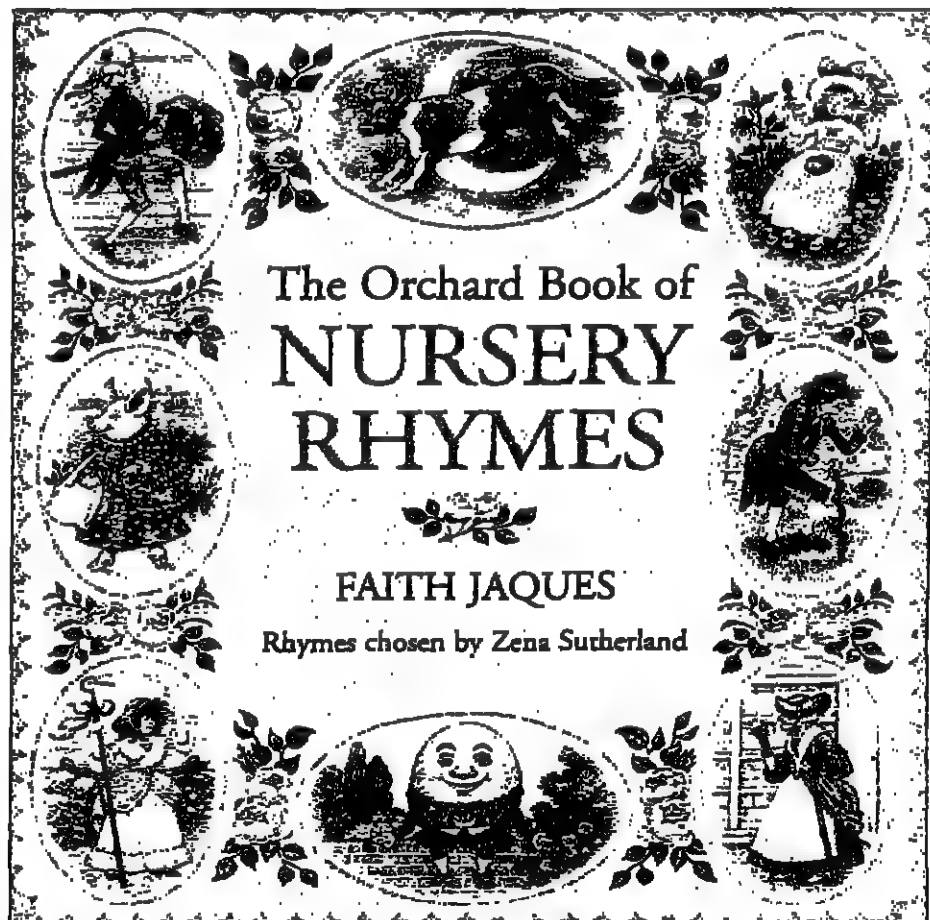
into her £30 Wren's gratuity, and only as graduation approached did she begin to exploit the possibilities of drawing for magazines and teaching what she had learnt.

This experience was to be the bedrock of her career. Part-time teaching at Guildford School of Art was followed by 15 years at Hornsey, until the upheavals there in 1968 caused her to quit, and she worked industriously at the many commissions which were bread-and-butter for the freelance graphic artist in the 1950s and 1960s: magazine illustration — especially for *Radio Times* — company brochures, programmes, and menus. She was also commissioned to design commemorative postage stamps, including the Christmas set for 1978.

As a passionate reader from childhood onwards, she had always seen herself as an illustrator, and as the market for ephemeral work declined, she turned more and more towards book illustration. She had done a variety of jobs for the mass-market publishers Adprint during the 1950s, but her forte was really in the demanding field of line-drawing, and it was here that her reputation was finally established. In 1967, she was chosen by Roald Dahl to illustrate the English edition of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (first published in New York with pictures by Joseph Schindelman), and that year saw her emergence as one of the more prolific illustrators of contemporary children's books.

Outstanding among her many collaborative works were the pen drawings for Philippa Pearce's *What the Neighbours Did* and the watercolours for Ursula Moray Williams's *The Picnic with the Aunts* (both 1972).

Faith Jaques took a classic



view of the illustrator's role, stemming from her admiration for such precursors as Eric Fraser and Edward Ardizzone. "The words matter most," she once wrote, "and my real job is to catch the mood and 'flavour' of the author." And in her effort to stay true to the text, she paid minute attention to technical and historic details, and compiled for herself a huge design archive which she filed with the assiduity of those wartime years.

"What does a 'quid-box' look

like?" she queried, working on the traditional rhyme of *A Peck of Pepper* (1974), and "How do you 'turn a Turk for two-pence'?" She said her toughest job was illustrating Andrew Lang's *Red Fairy Book* (1976), because each of the 130 drawings demanded "a different scene". She later expressed doubts as to whether art schools were any longer instilling the stamina to cope with such assignments.

Although her favourite medium was pen-and-ink, Faith Jaques was also a skilled

colourist, and towards the end of her career she devised a number of books of her own: two picture books about a Dutch doll, *Tilly* (1979 and 1980), and cut-out model books such as *Our Village Shop* (1983). Her last book was her most ambitious: *The Orchard Book of Nursery Rhymes* (1989), set in a well-scrubbed 18th century. When it was done, she retired to Bath "to catch up with my reading", and relinquished illustration for good.

She was unmarried.

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## MALVERN FESTIVAL

"JANE EYRE" BY HELEN JEROME

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Mr. Rochester	CHARLES VICTOR
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Mr. Rochester	CHARLES VICTOR
Mr. Rochester	CHARLES VICTOR

Adaptations in the past of "Jane Eyre" have fundered on the capital difficulty of distilling for the stage the poetry of a tale which in outline, as in much of its detail, is antiquated melodrama. There is nothing easier than to rearrange in scenes and acts the principal incidents in Jane's life. The impact of the masterful Rochester upon this lonely little governess; the mystery of the man in the secluded wing of the old house; the disclosure on Jane's wedding day that the man in the red dress is Rochester's wife; and the accident which reduces the masterful sinner to a blind and dependent hero — these matters may be

## ON THIS DAY

August 1, 1936

Helen Jerome, who had had some experience of the difficulty of adapting novels by the Brontës for the stage, found that *Jane Eyre* was no exception.

conveniently, and in a sense effectively, represented on the stage, but they will not, for players who are also novel readers, necessarily represent "Jane Eyre". Miss Helen Jerome has not triumphed where others have failed. She has not distilled sufficient poetry to light up character drawing which is rarely more than vigorous and elementary; she has found no substitute for the dark and lonely landscape which in the novel seems to purge melodrama of half its crudity; nor has she found it possible to turn into dialogue anything of Jane's own analysis of her passionate and romantic temperament. She has not, in short, done for Charlotte

Brontë what she lately did for Jane Austen, and not many of those who see the play are likely to feel that it gives them the same pleasure that the book gives. A measure of failure seems inevitable, but Miss Jerome has not exceeded this measure. Indeed, she has succeeded in putting together an extreme actable romance.

Rochester might as appropriately give his name to the play. They share the stage, and he is perhaps the more interesting of the two, for Miss Jerome and Mr. Reginald Tate between them contrive to make of him a more persuasive character than the Brontë Rochester. His brutality is there, but it has been transposed to the more realistic scene, and as Mr. Tate brilliantly represents him he is a sharp-tongued ironist with a conscience and a rude tenderness of heart. Jane is almost a subordinate figure, and, unskillfully played, might be no more than a conventional heroine. Miss Curigwen Lewis, discovering emotional delicacy where there is no depth, is still grave, and not too quaint. In a performance remarkable for restraint and quiet expressiveness, these two bear the chief burden of a play which, judged as an adaptation, is unsuccessful, but as a romance is a seriously successful mingling of strong drama and charm.



## NEWS

## Simon breaks silence on shares

Lord Simon of Highbury, the minister at the centre of the BP shares row, today fights back against his Tory critics, rejecting their "charges and innuendoes" that he is guilty of a conflict of interest in keeping his £2 million holding.

The Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, and former chairman of BP, warns that the furore stirred up by the Conservatives might make other businessmen wary of becoming involved in government. Pages 1, 8, 16

## Explorer finds sunken Roman treasures

The explorer who found the wreck of the *Titanic* has used an underwater robot and a nuclear submarine to probe the depths of the Mediterranean, discovering the greatest concentration of ancient shipwrecks. Robert Ballard was joined by two British archaeologists in his latest venture. Pages 1, 3

## Mills battle

Dame Barbara Mills was fighting to restore her credibility as Director of Public Prosecution as the Government further reduced her independence after the Crown Prosecution Service was castigated by the courts. Page 1

## Historic baby

A mother told of her joy at being able to cuddle the baby who made medical history and survived pioneering surgery for a life-threatening condition. Page 6

## A-level failures

A-level standards classical civilisation have fallen to their lowest point in ten years, according to an examiner who believes that many of the 350 candidates he marked deserved minus scores. Page 7

## HIV case sentence

A Cypriot fisherman who is dying of Aids was jailed for 15 months for knowingly infecting a British divorcee with HIV. Page 9

## Corrupt Britain

Britain is seen as more corrupt than seven other European Union countries, including Germany, according to an authoritative annual league table. Page 10

## Israel raids

Israeli security forces raided areas of the West Bank to arrest suspected Islamic extremists after the suicide bombings in Jerusalem's market which left 15 people dead. Page 11

## Landslide casualties

Rescuers continued to dig with their hands through the freezing ruins of two Australian ski lodges hit by a landslide. Eleven men and eight women were still buried under debris. Page 12

## Fishing claims

Spanish trawler owners are entitled to claim compensation for the multimillion-pound losses they claim they suffered while being excluded from British fishing waters, the High Court ruled. Page 1

## Blair code

Tony Blair has approved the toughest "catch all" code to govern the conduct of Ministers in a clear attempt to clean up politics, restore public trust and enshrine the primacy of No 10. Page 2

## Mother's name right

A woman has the right to give her illegitimate baby her own surname, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday. Page 2

## School trip drowning

A ten-year-old girl died after getting into difficulties while swimming on a school trip to the North Welsh coast. Page 3

## Lawrence inquiry

A four-man inquiry led by a former High Court judge will investigate the role of police and lawyers in the Stephen Lawrence case, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, announced. Page 4

## The Avebury Four lose their appeal

Sir Ludovic Kennedy has been driven to reconsider his opposition to the death penalty by the anti-social conduct of four intruders in his Wiltshire garden. They are peacocks who are popular among tourists visiting the historic village of Avebury but who have lost all their appeal among residents. Page 5



Linford Christie, dressed as an ancient Greek, with Jamie Baulch before the World Athletics Championships in Athens. Page 38

## BUSINESS

**Social Security:** The Department is to sell its entire property portfolio, worth some £400 million, to a consortium led by Goldman Sachs, an American investment bank. Page 21

**London Transport:** has awarded a Private Finance Initiative project to replace bus and Underground tickets with new "smart cards" to a consortium led by ICL, the computer group, and EDS, the Texan consultancy. Page 21

**Capital bid:** Nigel Griffiths, the Competition Minister, referred Capital Radio's bid for Virgin Radio to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Page 21

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 fell 19.8 to 4907.5. Sterling rose to 104.6 after rises from \$1.6323 to \$1.6373 and DM2.9955 to DM3.0067. Page 24

## SPORT

**Athletics:** The decision to reduce bans on athletes found guilty of drug taking from four to two years prompted a furious response from Linford Christie. Pages 38, 40

**Cricket:** Stuart Law, the Australian batsman who plays for Essex, hit a magnificent century against Nottinghamshire. Much of the rest of the championship programme was disrupted by rain. Page 36

**Football:** Manchester United have abandoned their attempts to sign Celso Silva, the Brazil defender, after the player was refused a work permit. Page 40

**Golf:** The intense competition to win places in the Europe Ryder Cup team dominated matters on the first day of the Volvo Scandinavia Masters in Malmö. Page 37

## ARTS

**In from the cold:** Dreadzone are the laid-back heroes of summer festivals but in a warm dry studio they come unstuck. David Sinclair on the week's top albums. Page 28

**Chemical reaction:** Who plays "psychedelic hip hop" trance-mel space-bomb electro techno rock 'n' roll with extra super funk? The Chemical Brothers. Page 29

**Road rage:** Going on the road with a rock band may sound like a sexy, thrilling adventure, but the reality is a truck-driving exercise in boredom, says Caitlin Moran. Page 29

**Kirov curiosity:** The Fountain of Bakhchisarai is classic Soviet melodrama with an unremarkable score and choreography but that doesn't stop the Kirov giving it their all. Page 30

## FEATURES

**Billion-dollar year:** Will the Russians go for a Moscow version of *Vogue*, symbol of Western affluence? The billionaire publisher Jonathan Newhouse explains why he believes they will. Page 14

**Losing its taste:** Is sushi the kebab of the 1990s and, like that meal-on-a-stick, about to lose its appeal to fashionable people? Page 14

**Game for a date:** Post-feminism has not made the dating game any easier for women, says Imogen Edwards-Jones. Page 15

**Classic mistakes:** Students who think that "I would off" is correct, who do not know the "el-e" distinction and who confuse to, too and two—an examination marker discusses A-level classics papers. Page 32

**Music matters:** Students, teachers, eminent professionals and children come together for a musical journey with the Music for Everyone programme. Page 32

**The pre-election hope:** The Kohl government—reform of the tax system—has been dashed. Germany will stay burdened with high taxes. That will scare off investors because even socialist-ruled neighbours are declaring a readiness to tackle to excesses of the social welfare system. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Page 19

**Arms sales:** PoW's lost pay; floods; asylum. Page 17

## RADIO &amp; TV

**Preview:** Gregor Fisher is back as the string-vested sage, *Rab C. Nesbitt* (BBC2, 9.30pm). *Review:* Matthew Bond on Patten's farewell to Hong Kong. Pages 38, 39

## OPINION

## What Simon says

If Lord Simon has erred on the side of caution with regard to insider dealing, he has erred on the side of inaction with regard to possible conflicts of interest. Page 17

## Deng's tricky legacy

The coming Congress will provide the first clues as to whether Deng's heirs can manage the forces unleashed in China by the success of the limited reforms that the master pragmatist allowed. Page 17

## In the fast lane

The motor trade might look forward to a somewhat more sensible distribution of sales and the sight of the beach in August. This particular tradition should be parked with little compunction. Page 17

## LORD SIMON

When the Prime Minister asked me to be Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, I had to think twice about it. Three months on I am sure that I made the right decision. Page 16

## JOHN LLOYD

Sovereignty in this country was once a layered and subtle concoction in which acquiescence in Westminster government was reasserted through a thousand shared experiences. But the layers have long been unravelling. Page 16

## MATTHEW PARRIS

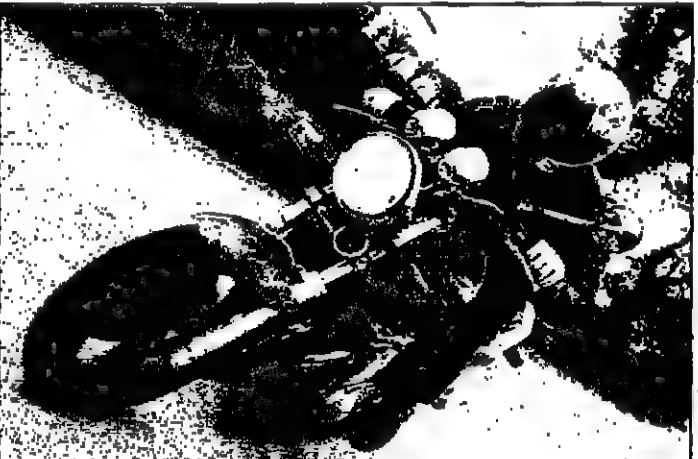
A favourite book is like a favourite person. She may not be the best. She may be no better than dozens of others and she may be no better than she ought to be. But you love her with all her faults. For me this book is Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. Page 16

## PETER RIDDELL

The Tories should be concentrating on the constitutional upheaval in Whitehall and the creation of the Blair presidency. Page 8

Lord Gould, Scottish Tory; George Dick, virologist; Faith Jacques, author and illustrator. Page 19

Arms sales; PoW's lost pay; floods; asylum. Page 17



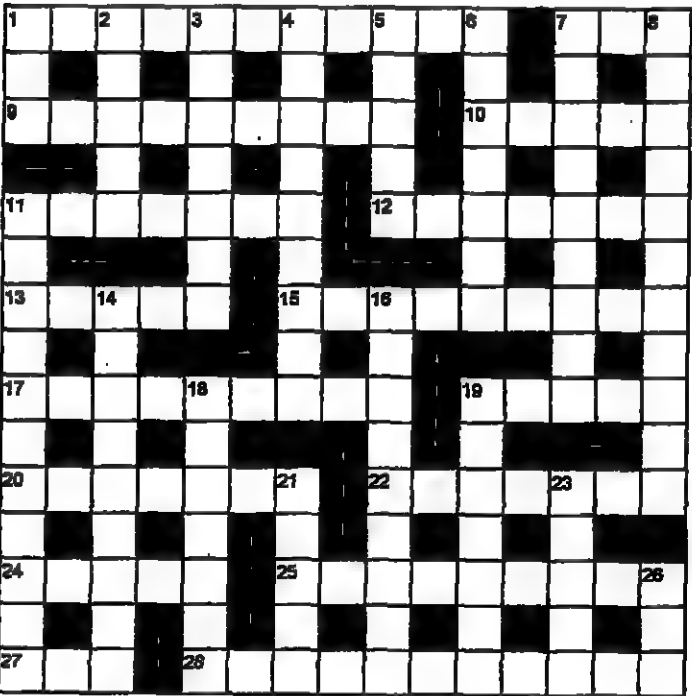
## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

**CAR 97**  
Celebrating the motorcycle boom with competitions and giveaways of some great bikes

**DIRECTORY**  
Britain's Young Turks take over the world of the pop video

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,547



- ACROSS**
- Kingdom whose southern neighbour could become enemy? (5,6).
  - Best music of a sort (3).
  - They need good drivers to keep them on course (4,5).
  - Every other part of this material is new (5).
  - Verify it's criminal business (7).
  - Show US claim to be invalid (7).
  - Lower classes, some in poor financial position (5).
  - Crockford, for example, girl found at church office (9).
  - Local intake's reflected in this projection of the corporation (4-5).
  - Bother with duck sauce (5).
  - Vanished with collection of ten-cent pieces, without returning it (7).
  - Carried away Lily with car—convertible (7).
  - Critique strike (5).
- DOWN**
- Decline thus to raise matter, in one form (3).
  - Cavalryman showing us his lance is new, originally (5).
  - One line inside popular bar is inherent to the architecture (2-5).
  - A worthy person, for example (4,5).
  - Best succeeded all-round period of prosperity (5).
  - Person with a problem recollecting name, thus (7).
  - Encounter a misfortune under ladder (3,6).
  - As result of foul play, Len got a score like this? (7,4).
  - Fellow always grasping opportunity as solver of cryptic puzzles (4-7).
  - Sorts of geese and pigeons found in Essex town (9).
  - Source of change sanctioned by the monarchy (5,4).
  - Report on King satisfactory in royal city out East (7).
  - Act according to custom (7).
  - Put up with what's necessary when having a row (5).
  - Top flier going directly north (5).
  - Old agreement runs out at end of 1997, say (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,546

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C L U S E S A F T  
A N I M P A R A D I S  
T A N I H N  
P E L T U P T O A P I N T  
A T I M E L N U  
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E L E F E A E  
D E H E R R I N G U S E R  
C E A A T Y T  
H A R R I D A N T I T  
A M I C R I T I C A T  
S L A M K S E O A N  
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Times Two Crossword, page 40

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**HIGHEST & LOWEST**  
Wednesday: Highest day: Short Bay, Essex, and Haverhill, 24C (75F); lowest day: Lough Fee, Co Tyrone, 14C (57F); highest rainfall: Biddulph, Darlington and Galloway, 0.56in; highest sunshine: Torquay, Devon, 13 1/2h

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## FORECAST

**General:** southern and eastern England will start grey with rain moving away eastwards. It should slowly brighten during a warm and very humid afternoon with a little lazy sunshine, although a few spots of rain may return towards evening.

Wales and western England will have a lot of cloud with mist and drizzle at first, but it should be brighter and fresher in the North West later. Northern Ireland and Scotland will have rain at first, and will slowly become drier and brighter during the day.

Tonight, light rain or drizzle possible in southern England, where the night will be mild and humid. Elsewhere, with the exception of an isolated shower in northern Scotland, it will be dry and cooler than of late.

**London, SE England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** generally cloudy, muggy and warm, feeling hot where cloud does break. Light winds. Max 25C (77F).

**E Anglia, E England:** early rain then dry and mainly cloudy, although a few areas will see some afternoon sunshine. Light winds. Max 25C (77F).

**N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England:** cloudy with light rain or drizzle in places, becoming dry with some late sunshine. Light winds. Max 25C (77F).

**Borders, SW Scotland, N Ireland:** some early rain then dry, with a small risk of a shower. Sunny spells developing. Light winds. Max 23C (73F).

**Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Orkney, Shetland:** rain clearing then dry with long sunny spells. Light to moderate westerly wind. Max 21C (70F).

**Argyll, NW Scotland:** sunny spells with the risk of occasional shower. Moderate westerly wind. Max 20C (68F).

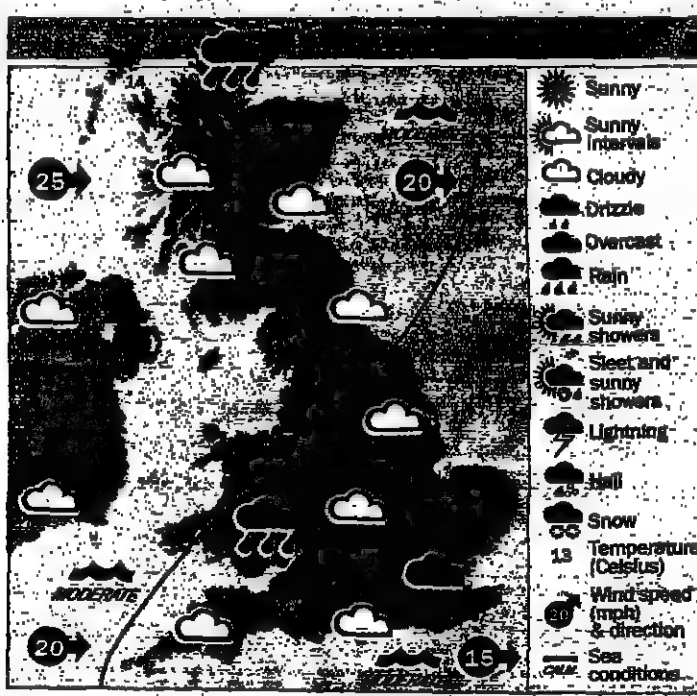
**Outlook for the weekend:** cloud and drizzle may linger in southern England and south Wales tomorrow, but most areas will be dry with spells of warm sunshine. It should stay fine and warm on Sunday.

**Pollens low in all areas (this forecast, compiled by the Pollen Research Unit, is the last for the 1997 pollen season).**

## AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	18	10	100	18	10	100
Edinburgh	12	10	100	12	10	100
Belfast	12	10	100	12	10	100
Birmingham	18	10	100	18	10	100
Bournemouth	18	10	100	18	10	100
Bristol	18	10	100	18	10	100
Cardiff	18	10	100	18	10	100
Exeter	18	10	100	18	10	100
Gloucester	18	10	100	18	10	100
Leeds	18	10	100	18	10	100
Manchester	18	10	100	18	10	100
Newcastle	18	10	100	18	10	100
Nottingham	18	10	100	18	10	100
Sheffield	18	10	100	18	10	100
Sunderland	18	10	100	18	10	100
Tyneside	18	10	100	18	10	100
Wolverhampton	18	10	100	18	10	100
Wrexham	18	10	100	18	10	100

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	27	10	100	27	10	100
Algeria	27	10	100	27	10	100
Algeria	27	10	100	27	10	100
Algeria	27	10	100	27	10	100
Algeria	27	10	100	27	10	100
Algeria	27	10	100	27	10	100
Algeria	27	10	100	27	10	100
Algeria	27	10	100	27	10	100
Algeria	27	10	100	27	10	100
Algeria	27	10	100	27	10	100



Changes to chart below from noon: low F will move slowly north and fill; low H will drift east and deepen a little; high S will slide east to tie over the Benetis Sea.



Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	18	10	100	18	10	100
Edinburgh	12	10	100	12	10	100
Belfast	12	10	100	12	10	100
Birmingham	18	10	100	18	10	100
Bournemouth	18	10	100	18	10	100
Bristol	18	10	100	18	10	100
Cardiff	18	10	100	18	10	100
Exeter	18	10	100	18	10	100
Gloucester	18	10	100	18	10	100
Leeds	18	10	100	18	10	100
Manchester	18	10	100	18	10	100
Newcastle	18	10	100	18	10	100
Nottingham	18	10	100	18	10	100
Sheffield	18	10	100	18	10	100
Sunderland	18	10	100	18	10	100
Tyneside	18	10	100	18	10	100
Wolverhampton	18	10	100	18	10	100
Wrexham	18	10	100	18	10	100

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monetary gap  
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a summer school  
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halve drug bans  
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997

# US bank acquires DSS buildings for £400m

By CARL MORTIMER

THE Department of Social Security is to sell its entire property portfolio, worth £400 million, to Partnership Property Management (PPM), a consortium led by Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank.

The Private Finance Initiative project, known as Prime, was conceived by the last Government and given the go-ahead yesterday by Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security. It is the largest single real estate transaction in the UK, covering more than 17 million sq ft in more than 700 buildings.

PPM was chosen from a shortlist of two bidders, its rival being Maseley Holdings, a group that includes Nations Bank and Burford, the property company. PPM comprises the Whitehall Street Real Estate Partnership, a fund run by Goldman Sachs, Amec, the builder, Berkeley Group, the developer, Vines Management, Compass Management and Richard Ellis, the surveyors.

Prime is expected to be followed by similar government property deals. Deloitte & Touche, which advised the DSS on this transaction, is working on a proposal for a £2.5 billion private finance scheme covering 450 properties for the Inland Revenue and Customs & Excise. A competition is underway to redevelop the Chelsea Barracks into residential housing. Prime could revolutionise the way the property industry does business, with major public companies seeking similar deals. Manish Chande, chief executive of Prime, said: "We do intend to become a substantial business and bid for other projects."

The deal marks the first contract in the DSS's Change programme to be awarded since Labour came to power. In the next few days, Ms Harman is expected to invite final bids for its Impact contract, which will privatise medical services for the Benefits Agency. Four consortia, including teams led by Andersen Consulting and Capita Group, are in line for the process of £500 million. Ms Harman is also expected to drop the privatisation of the child benefit distribution system - Prospect - although there will be a new scheme to computerise the service. Projects involving small computer systems and the use of outside consultants are also expected to be approved. The DSS, which employs

95,000 staff and has a budget of £85 billion, is the largest owner of government property, accounting for 16 per cent of the civil portfolio. The DSS's freeholds and long leasehold interests are being sold to PPM for £250 million. In addition, PPM will supply the DSS with serviced accommodation under a 20-year contract for a fixed fee that will be linked to inflation indices.

Unlike a conventional property lease, the DSS with maintenance, heating, lighting and air-conditioning, cleaning, security, catering and landscape maintenance. It will also allow the DSS to quit buildings at short notice.

John Mason, head of the DSS Prime project, said the Government had three objectives: get the department out of the property business; drive down costs; and obtain more flexibility. He said there would be no job losses linked to the property sale, with staff transferring to the supplier.

The details of the contract have yet to be agreed but he expects the Government to achieve significant savings on the DSS's occupation costs, which exceed £350 million a year. Negotiations are expected to lead to a full contract by the year end, with the handover on April 1 next year.

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David Clementi, far left, and Mervyn King, far right, with Gordon Brown and Eddie George yesterday after their appointments were announced

# Insider to be Deputy Governor

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MERVYN KING was yesterday named as the new Deputy Governor of the Bank of England responsible for monetary stability, ending months of speculation that Gavin Davies would be awarded the job.

The Government also confirmed that David Clementi, vice chairman of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, would become Deputy Governor responsible for financial stability, effectively acting as chief executive of the Bank.

Mr King, who is currently chief economist at the Bank, was the main internal candidate for the new post. A former

academic at the London School of Economics, he has been at the Bank for seven years and is regarded as hawkish on inflation.

The City welcomed the appointments, which economists believe will strengthen the Bank's independence. They will do little to alter the perceived hawkish bias on the Bank's monetary policy committee, which sets interest rates.

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Citibank, said: "Both men are widely respected in the City. The appointments tilt the majority on the monetary policy committee slightly further in the

favour of Bank insiders." The promotion of Mr King is also likely to end rumours that Mr Davies, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs, is being lined up to take over as Governor when Mr George's contract expires next year. Economists said it is almost unfeasible that the Government would catapult Mr Davies into the top post without giving him time to learn the ropes at the Bank.

The City had expressed concern that the appointment of Mr Davies to a senior position could undermine the Bank's newly won independence. Mr Davies is a close adviser to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Sue Nye, his wife, is chief of staff in Mr Brown's office.

The City now believes it is likely Mr George will win an extension to his contract, even if he chooses not to serve another full five-year term. Mr King's promotion leaves him in a strong position to become Mr George's successor.

Mr King will not formally take up his post until enabling legislation is passed in the autumn, although he will continue to serve on the monetary policy committee which meets

again next week, when it is expected to raise interest rates a further quarter point. Mr Clementi will take up his post at the beginning of September.

The Bank will now begin the search for a replacement to Mr King as director of economics, a position that also carries a place on the monetary policy committee. Andrew Dilnot, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, and Charles Bean, professor of economics at the LSE, were last night being tipped as possible candidates.

Who's in at the Bank, page 22  
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# Capital bid for Virgin transmitted to MMC

By JASON NISSE

NIGEL GRIFFITHS, the Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, yesterday referred Capital Radio's controversial bid for Richard Branson's Virgin Radio to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The £64.7 million offer, roundly attacked within the radio industry, was waived through by the Radio Authority, the industry regulator, last month. But John Bridgeman, the Director-General of Fair Trading, decided that the bid would give Capital a dominant share of the market for radio advertising in London, and recommended referral. The MMC is due to report in November.

Virgin won a national AM licence four years ago and was awarded the London FM franchise

two years later after saying that it needed the extra licence to make the AM franchise work. Bringing Virgin and Capital together would give them a combined 43 per cent share of the audience for radio in London and 62.7 per cent of the advertising of leading brands in the capital.

However, David Mansfield, who takes over as Capital's chief executive in October, had vowed to disband Capital's media-selling organisation, which will cut its dominant position in the advertising market. He said buying Virgin was essential for the development of digital commercial radio, which Capital wants to launch on Virgin's national AM franchise.

Capital and Virgin said yesterday they thought the bid

raised no competition issues. Will Whitehorn, a director of Virgin, said: "For the OFT to refer this to the MMC, but handle the BA/AMC deal with kid gloves, is amazing."

However, rival radio operators welcomed the move. Chris Parry, chief executive of XFM, the alternative rock station launching next month, said: "This is a great day for radio. I have never been comfortable with this bid, which would have brought Capital back up to the extremely powerful position it held until the mid-1980s."

The MMC ruling will show whether any further consolidation of the radio market will be allowed, with the expectation that some of the larger radio stations in the big regional cities may merge.

# ICL to put Tube in smartcard age

By JASON NISSE

LONDON TRANSPORT will today announce that it has awarded a Private Finance Initiative project to replace bus and Underground tickets with new smartcards, to a consortium led by ICL, the computer group, and EDS, the Texan consultancy.

The award of the contract, called Prestige and believed to be worth more than £500 million, comes at the end of a complex two-year tendering process that has led to the project being more than six months late.

The ICL/EDS team includes Cubic Corporation and WS Atkins and is called TranSys. It was the only bidder left after the withdrawal of three other groups, one led by IBM, another by BT and the third made up of

Olivetti, Andersen Consulting, KPMG and National Express. TranSys has vowed to revolutionise people's travel to work. Instead of the current paper tickets that are put through machines that operate the barriers on the Tube network, there will be plastic cards with computer chips that will be scanned in the same way tills operate in supermarkets.

London Underground hopes that the smartcards will speed up ticket sales, cut fraud and improve information about customer travel patterns.

The Prestige project was caught up in the excessive bureaucracy that has dogged the PFI and its award will come as a great relief to both the Treasury and the Department of Transport.

# City angry at BT's silence over MCI merger

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



No details: Sir Iain Vallance, left, and Peter Bonfield

SIR PETER BONFIELD, chief executive of BT, further angered the City by maintaining a wall of silence over the company's troubled £12 billion merger with MCI, the US telecoms company.

Sir Peter yesterday refused to reveal details of the review that BT started after MCI's profits warning early this month, although he acknowledged that institutional investors have told BT they had lost confidence in its management.

Analysts and investors had expected news of the review with yesterday's publication of first-quarter results. But the

reluctance to calm the increasing clamour for information triggered fresh frustration and further trimmed BT's share price. It fell 4p to 426½p. More than £5 billion has been wiped from the company's value since the profits warning threw into doubt the wisdom of the MCI merger.

Sir Peter declined to say what price negotiations were under way or even how much scope there is to renege the contract. He said the deal is a complex merger arrangement that is "interpreted by lawyers, but we are looking at the whole situation and the

contract is part of that". Sir Peter indicated that everything was on the table in the joint review which could be complete by the end of this month or early next month.

Sir Peter conceded that institutions had warned the company of a loss of confidence. He said: "Some of them have certainly said that." He said he could "understand their concern", but he denied he had considered resigning over the issue.

It is possible that MCI could counter any price negotiation by saying BT, whose chairman is Sir Iain Vallance,

is less robust itself after changes to advance corporation tax and imposition of the windfall tax.

Richard Jones, telecoms analyst with Yamaichi, said: "This is very frustrating for everyone. We don't know what they are trying to renegotiate or even if they can or can't renegotiate." Mr Jones predicted another slump in the share price when the stock goes ex-dividend in a couple of weeks.

BT's pre-tax profits for the first quarter climbed 1.4 per cent to £881 million.

Commentary, page 23

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4007.8	(-19.4)
FTSE All share	2295.18	(-5.99)
Nikkei	8331.43	(+118.61)
New York	8347.46	(-7.43)*
Dow Jones	953.24	(+0.95)*

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	104 1/8%	(103 1/4%)
Yield	6.32%	(6.33%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
12-month bill	11 1/2%	(11 1/2%)

### STERLING

New York	1.8419	(1.8285)
London	1.8375	(1.8323)
Frankfurt	3.0077	(2.9996)
Paris	10.1400	(10.1010)
Yen	2.4761	(2.4767)
Sfr	153.88	(153.02)
£ index	104.6	(104.3)

### DOLLAR

London	1.8400	(1.8365)
Frankfurt	3.0029	(2.9996)
Paris	1.5138	(1.5125)
Yen	118.39	(118.43)
£ index	108.8	(108.7)

Tokyo close Yen 117.07

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$18.68	(\$18.95)
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### GOLD

London close	\$326.05	(\$326.65)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Takeovers

TI Group wants to spend up to £400 million on acquisitions by next March. The engineering and aerospace company said a number of deals were under negotiation but ruled out a move to diversify beyond existing activities. Page 23

## Drug boost

Rapidly rising sales of treatments for HIV, migraine and asthma will enable Glaxo Wellcome to overcome the loss of patent on its biggest selling drug and achieve earnings targets, the pharmaceuticals giant claimed. Page 22

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# Prime candidates for disposal

COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Welcome to the great government sell-off. Gold- man Sachs may be the proud new owner of a motley portfolio of properties inhabited by the Department of Social Security, but there are many more ugly offices still to come.

The estimate is that by the year 2001, around 65 per cent of the government estate could have been "prized", as this variation of privatisation is now to be known.

The Inland Revenue will be one of the first to follow the DSS. A feasibility study has just been completed into the prospects for disposing of its vast portfolio and optimists are talking about a cheque for £500 million soon heading towards the tax man to bolster the less rounded results of self-assessment. There can be little doubt that the change at the Revenue will be better employed looking after 550 assorted buildings which comprise some 14 million square feet of space. And after the Revenue, Customs & Excise should not be far behind.

There is also a large tranche of Cheltenham which could soon be seeking buyers. Although we can only guess what goes on there, GCHQ takes up 117 acres of the sedate town and an imaginative developer could certainly provide the spies with a more salubrious working environment than they currently have on the site.

If the bonus-conscious partners of Goldman see money to be made from taking over gov-

ernment properties, it is to be expected that the sums do indeed look enticing. Enthusiasm for "priming" is growing, and some high powered consortia are taking shape to bid for the next contracts.

The property market is gaining strength at the moment, and investors are realising that there are enticing yields to be had from those buildings which are disparagingly denounced as secondary by honest estate agents.

The attractions of each deal will vary, depending on the split between freehold and leasehold sites and the scope for redevelopment. The Chelsea Pensioners could find themselves scot flying as private types in pinstripes make a dash for the chance of turning a unique central London site into new and expensive housing.

But the question which has yet to be determined is how the Government will account for all the extra cash which could come rolling in as it allows others to assume the responsibility of landlord. Resort to off-balance sheet funding takes government into dangerous areas. The proceeds cannot simply be allowed to flow through into helping the Government balance its public spending

ideals with its budgetary constraints.

The accountants in Brussels are keeping a careful watch on how the proceeds of priming are to be handled, for they still have their eyes fixed on the Maastricht criteria even if few in Britain are now focusing on those demands.

There will be no chance of the British Government doing with its unloved offices what Herr Kohl was prevented from doing with Germany's gold reserves.

## Still no answer from BT

The board of BT continues to demonstrate a breathtaking disregard for the sensibilities of its shareholders.

Yesterday it refused to give any indication whether it was able to renegotiate the terms of its deal with MCI or whether it would press on with shelling out £12 billion of investors' money on a

business which in chaos. Sir Iain Vallance and Sir Peter Bonfield may feel that a blithe assurance that they remain supportive of MCI's strategy should be enough to send shareholders happy to their beds, but they are very much mistaken, as the continuing downward spiral of the BT share price demonstrates.

Given the scale of the losses that MCI has now indicated it faces, one can understand why the swashbuckling individuals who had created the business were so easily seduced by BT's generosity. But the fact that Bert Roberts and his colleagues, apparently men of individual spirit, suddenly succumbed to the charms, and cheque books, of Sir Iain and Sir Peter might have raised a few quibbles with BT.

The original deal, which gave BT a 20 per cent stake in MCI, made sense. The arrangement should also have put BT in a position to learn more about the US market and its new partner.

Yet the opposite appears to have been the case. MCI is losing out on its core long-distance business while haemorrhaging dreadfully as it tries to break into the local market, but the news has hit BT out of the blue.

As BT's own figures yesterday showed, the company does need to look outside the UK for continued growth, but not at any price. But the motives behind the MCI deal smack of international empire building rather than a move towards enhancing shareholder value. There is a growing view in the City that the idea should be abandoned completely, or the price reduced drastically.

If, as is being rumoured, BT and its bevy of advisers has walked into a trap from which the small print allows no legal escape, they should clamber out and invite MCI to sue. The likelihood is that the MCI directors might rapidly come round to the idea of a lower

price rather than none at all. For Sir Iain Vallance, who followed his father into the Post Office, there may still be problems in coping with the needs of shareholders, but if he does not do so now, he may face a rebellion. And pointing out that it was Sir Peter Bonfield and not he who has sat on the MCI board will not save his neck.

## By George, a new man for Old Lady

Congratulations are due to Eddie George. The Governor of the Bank of England held his ground under early attack from the new Government and now appears to have secured his position.

Yesterday, he looked triumphant as he presented his two new deputy governors, neither of whom would be likely to challenge him if he decided, as has been indicated, that he might like to stay on at the Bank for another term rather than retire to leafy Dulwich.

The spectre of Gavyn Davies was nowhere to be seen in Threadneedle Street. Had all the gossips been imagining that the bearded millionaire economist

was destined to be the next Governor?

Davies, to be fair, has maintained a public silence on the subject throughout, but jungle drums have rarely played more closely to the same music sheet, which declared that he was only interested in being deputy if a rapid promotion was on offer.

The likelihood is that Chancellor Gordon Brown was happy for that message to be played out so that he could judge the response to it. That came loud and clear: Davies would have been judged too close to Government to be seen as an independent voice at the Bank. His work for Labour was not the only obstacle. Even the broadest mind would have some difficulty in assuming he could remain completely untouched by the fact that his partner, Sue Nye, is an indispensable member of Mr Brown's team.

## Got a light?

HOWARD HODGSON, the dismissed chief executive, has ruled himself out as the bidder for Ronson, the lighter company that nearly went down in flames. So who might want it? How about Stephen Hinchliffe, fresh from his courtroom victory over Price Waterhouse. Now that he can get his hands on his assets again, the man behind the Facia fiasco would have the audacity to try to link Ronson with the Colibri lighter business he still owns.

## Confident TI to spend £400m on acquisitions

By OLIVER AUGUST

TI GROUP will spend up to £400 million on bolt-on acquisitions by next March. The engineering and aerospace company said a number of deals were under negotiation but ruled out a move to diversify beyond existing activities.

TI reported a fall in interim pre-tax profits to £112 million in the six months to June 30 from £123 million in the first half of the previous year, when there was an exceptional gain of £20 million.

Despite the decline in profits the results were generally ahead of City expectations. However, TI shares fell 24½p to 543p amid profit-taking

after the stock's recent strong run and because of renewed fears about the adverse impact of the strong pound.

Martin Angle, finance director, said the City was overestimating the effect of sterling. With operations in 45 countries TI suffers from almost no currency translation exposure, he said. Most profits stay within the countries in which they were earned. Only when profits are repatriated for accounting purposes or to pay dividends is there a translation loss.

Exchange rate movements cost TI £7.4 million in the first half. Similar losses can also be expected in the second half if

sterling remains at around the DM3 level.

Dowty, the landing gear and aerospace systems specialist, showed a 25 per cent lift in sales, reflecting the buoyant mood in the aerospace sector at the moment after several years of slow growth.

John Crane, the mechanical seals and polymers arm, produced a 2 per cent rise in sales in what TI described as a "challenging" market. The market is still contracting, at around 4 per cent.

Bundy Group, which manufactures fluid systems for the automotive and refrigeration industries, saw an increase of 8 per cent.

Tim Bennett, engineering analyst at Morgan Stanley, said: "Aerospace was even better than expected whilst Crane was disappointing."

Mr Bennett said he would probably make a slight upwards revision to his earnings forecast for the group on the back of the performance by the aerospace business.

The interim dividend is increased to 5.1p a share from 4.75p, due on October 7, payable from earnings of 16.1p a share up 10 per cent.

Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman, said: "Our global spread and balance saw the group achieve a strong first-half result with organic profit growth of 15 per cent, improved margins and good cash flow. We go forward with strong order books, are well positioned to make further bolt-on acquisitions and have confidence in our ability to generate continued growth."



Tony Hill (left), managing director, and Gerald Richardson, his deputy at Surrey Free Inns, which made annual pre-tax profits of £2.3 million (£1.2 million). Earnings were 18.8p (11.6p). A 1.6p final dividend makes a total of 28.5p, up 27%. Surrey is to be renamed SFI Group.

## Cowie plans to secure foothold in Scandinavia

By FRASER NELSON

COWIE, the transport group, is set to join Rivals National Express and Stagecoach in the scramble for Scandinavia's newly privatised bus routes.

The company, which has already carved an 18 per cent share of the UK bus market, is in the final stages of negotiations with two small bus operators in Sweden and the Benelux countries. Gordon Hodgson, chief executive, said the company is prepared to pay a premium for the companies to establish its first overseas base.

Mr Hodgson said: "We need a platform to move forward, and we are quite far in the discussions in as much as we are now talking price. We are taking a longer-term view, by 2002, a third of bus routes over there will be put out to tender so you have to have a platform now to sell into this market later."

He ruled out any acquisitions in Australia, adding that it would be reluctant to expand to anywhere which is more than an hour's flight away.

The expansion of UK bus operations lifted pre-tax profits 48 per cent to £37.1 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings grew 18 per cent to 16.8p per share, and an interim dividend of 5.7p is due on September 9.

Its car leasing division returned its first ever profits decline. Michael Gwillt, the division's director, blamed this on costs of bedding down new outsourcing contracts.

Mr Hodgson, who two weeks ago named Mr Gwillt as his eventual successor as chief executive, said he expects to hand over the position by the end of next year, when he will be 68. However, he added that

he has no intentions of stepping down from the board and would remain in another executive capacity.

In February dispute over his succession led to the dismissal of Neil Pykett, then head of its leasing division. Mr Pykett has taken the matter to an industrial tribunal, with a hearing due later this month.

Tempos, page 24

## Ocean to splash out in logistics

By OUR CITY STAFF

OCEAN, the transport group, is ready to spend its cash pile of £300 million on medium-sized deals in the logistics area. John Allan, chief executive, said: "We are pursuing a large number of opportunities, mostly in the logistics area, because we think that's the area where there is long-term growth potential with what we have got."

Ocean's shares rose 15p to 532½p, near their all-time high of 551p, after it disclosed operating profits up from £29 million to £30.8 million for the half year to June 30. Pre-tax profits were £263 million (£27 million last year) after a £231 million profit from selling OIL, the offshore services business. Underlying earnings per share rose to 14.2p (12.1p). The interim dividend rises to 5.4p (5p).

## Logica acquires Irish design firm

By FRASER NELSON

LOGICA, the computer services company, is to double its exposure to the software sector through the acquisition of Aldisco, an Irish software company that designs systems for mobile phones.

Logica shares, which have plunged from £10.62 to 690p this year, rose 60p to 750p. The rise came in spite of the company's £52.5 million rights issue, whereby 9.13 million shares are being placed with institutions at 605p apiece on a one-for-seven basis.

Dr Martin Read, the chief executive of Logica, said: "The acquisition is absolutely bang in line with our strategy because it is in telecoms and it will all be value-added stuff. The company has got repeatable

sales and it's very international."

Logica intends to offer its design and email services to Aldisco's mobile phone clients, who include Motorola, Orange and MCI.

Dr Read said that Logica had solved its earlier problems of finding enough computer programmers. It had already found 220 graduates to fill the 350 spaces that it has this year, he said.

After winning a £10 million contract in France to prepare computers for European monetary union and work on the millennium computer problem, Logica's order book is 26 per cent up on last year. Logica has also won a £6 million contract from the Bank of Turkey and a £14 million outsourcing contract from Polaris, the insurer.

## Lasmo on the lookout for Middle East opportunities

By CARL MORTIMER

LASMO, the oil exploration company, is looking for opportunities in Iran and the Caspian region. Joe Darby, chief executive, said the company is looking for a new area to add to its five core locations in the UK, Indonesia, North Africa, Pakistan and Venezuela.

The oil company yesterday announced net profits of £26 million for the first six months of the year, down from £38 million in the previous year which included a £23 million disposal profit.

Mr Darby said he is seeking

to secure a new core area like Venezuela, referring to the company's recent acquisition of the Decian area, where Lasmo believes it can recover 880 million barrels of oil.

"In the long run we need to find an entry route into the Middle East. Initially we have been looking at the Emirates, but in the long term it is going to be countries like Iran or Iraq. Iraq is still off-limits but Iran is a possibility," he said.

Lasmo is also putting oil feelers in the Caspian region, where Mr Darby sees the oil-

rich Azerbaijan as an attractive area.

Shares in the oil company rose 10p yesterday after news that production would increase to 250 million barrels per day by 2001. Mr Darby said that the forecast related to known oilfields and took no account of exploration prospects.

Earnings before exceptional items rose from 1.6p to 2.1p per share, but Lasmo is again not paying an interim dividend.

Tempos, page 24

## Allied Irish leaps ahead

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

ALLIED Irish Banks, which recently became the first Irish company with a market capitalisation of more than Ir£5 billion (£4.4 billion), yesterday reported a rise in pre-tax profits to Ir£242 million, from Ir£201.2 million, in the half-year to the end of June.

Tom Mulcahy, chief executive, said that the strong performance — coupled with the acquisition of Dauphin

Deposit Corporation in America and purchase of a controlling stake in Poland's Wielkopolski Bank Kredytowy (WBK) — marked a "quantum leap" in group business. Earnings rose to Ir£22.4p a share from Ir£18.3p. In London, the shares rose 29½p to 563p yesterday.

In Ireland and Britain, where pre-tax profit rose 24 per cent to Ir£130 million, the

bank continued to benefit from investment in new technology and increased cross-selling of financial products.

First Maryland Bancorp, the bank's US subsidiary, lifted pre-tax profit 10 per cent to Ir£63 million despite higher provision for bad credit card debts.

The interim dividend is lifted 14 per cent, to Ir£6.8p, due on September 24.

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## NatWest Business Accounts Interest Rates

NatWest announces the following interest rates effective from 1 August 1997:

Savings Reserve Account		
Gross Interest per annum	Minimum	Gross Compounded Annual Rate
4.750%	Instant Access - No minimum deposit/withdrawal	4.84%
4.620%	£250,000 and above	4.70%
4.500%	£25,000 - £99,999	4.58%
4.000%	£2,000 - £24,999	4.06%
3.500%	£500 - £1,999	3.55%
2.250%	£0 - £499	2.27%

Where appropriate, you will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid (which may be restricted by relevant tax legislation). Subject to the required eligibility terms, interest will be paid gross.

11 Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return of your deposits if the interest payments are reinvested in the account.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank Plc 41 Lombard, London EC2P 2BP









Big money: Luc Eyck, the Belgian designer, centre, with replicas of his euro coins, which could be as dominant a force in world finance as the dollar

## Euro will narrow monetary gap between US and Europe

The creation of a single currency will be the most important development in the international monetary system since the early Seventies. The dollar will have its first real competitor since it surpassed the pound as the world's dominant currency in the inter-war period. As much as \$1 trillion of international investment may shift from dollars to euros. Volatility between the world's key currencies will increase, requiring new forms of international co-operation if severe costs for the global economy are to be avoided.

The global economic roles of the European Union and the US are nearly identical. The EU accounts for about 31 per cent of world output and 20 per cent of world trade. The US provides about 27 per cent of global production and 18 per cent of world trade. The dollar's 40 to 60 per cent share of world finance far exceeds the economic weight of the US. The dollar's market share is three to five times that of the mark, the only European currency now used globally.

Inertia is a powerful force in international finance. For half a century, sterling retained a global role in the excess of Britain's economic strength. The dollar will probably remain the leading currency indefinitely. But the creation of the euro will narrow, and perhaps eventually close, the present monetary gap between the US and Europe. The dollar and euro are each likely to wind up with about 40 per cent of world finance, with about 20 per cent remaining for the yen, the Swiss franc and minor currencies. The euro will probably be strong from its inception. The Maastricht treaty gives the European Central Bank (ECB) a mandate to ensure price stability. The ECB will place overwhelming emphasis on establishing its credibility as soon as possible. It will be especially wary of any depreciation of the euro's exchange rate and is likely to view euro appreciation as an early sign of success. The ECB will be the first central bank in history without a government looking over its shoulder.

The fiscal criteria of the Maastricht treaty are likely to be interpreted flexibly to enable EMU to start on time and to include the Club Med countries. The "growth and stability pact" to govern budget positions after start-up seems likely to have large loopholes. If unemployment remains high at start-up, the national governments will

The dollar will have its first real competitor since toppling sterling, C. Fred Bergsten says

deploy their only remaining macro-economic tool — fiscal policy — in an expansionary direction. That would intensify the pressure on the ECB to pursue a tight monetary policy.

Combining such budgetary tolerance with a resolute ECB will strengthen the new currency. The proper analogy is with the Federal Reserve, which produced a sky-high dollar in the early Eighties in the face of Ronald Reagan's huge budget deficits, or the Bundesbank, which produced a strong mark in the face of large deficits in the early Nineties triggered by German reunification. The ECB is likely to out-Fed and out-Bundesbank its most distinguished role models. Europe may not carry out the structural reforms needed to restore dynamic economic growth. But markets prize stability more than growth, as indicated by the continued dominance of the dollar through extended periods of sluggish US economic performance. America's external economic position will continue to raise doubts about the future stability and value of the dollar. The US has run current account deficits for the past 15 years. Its net foreign debt exceeds \$1 trillion and is rising annually by 15 to 20 per cent. In contrast, the EU has a roughly balanced international asset position and has run modest surpluses in its international accounts in recent years. On this important criterion, the EU is decidedly superior to the US. There will probably be a portfolio diversification of \$300 billion to \$1 trillion into euros, with most of this shift out of the dollar. This, in turn, will have a significant impact on exchange rates during a long transition period, driving the euro up and the dollar down substantially. The extent of the shift will depend on whether the supply of euros rises in tandem with demand. It will also depend on the relationship between the dollar and the European national currencies when the euro is issued. While most Europeans

want a strong euro, they also want to avoid an overvalued currency that deepens their economic difficulties. Many believe their national currencies are already overvalued in spite of recent substantial declines against the dollar. The only way they can avoid the dilemma is to depreciate the European national currencies further before the launch of the euro. The EU would then be able to set the initial exchange rate below the fundamental equilibrium exchange rate and the euro could appreciate modestly without undermining the long-term competitive position of the European economy.

Exchange-market developments from now until the early part of the next century could be a mirror image of the first half of the Eighties. During that period, US budget deficits soared. The elimination of Japanese exchange controls triggered a large portfolio diversification from yen into dollars. Fiscal tightening in Europe and Japan further enhanced the dollar's appreciation. The opposite conditions may apply in the period ahead: further reductions in, or even elimination of, the US budget deficit could coincide with European fiscal expansion and a large diversification out of the dollar triggered by the euro's creation.

The exchange rate between the euro and the dollar will pose a significant policy challenge. The US and the rest of the world should reject any attempt by Europe to substantially undervalue the euro's start-up rate. It would represent a blatant effort by Europe to export its high unemployment and enable the euro to become a strong currency without any significant cost to its competitive position.

France is running sizeable trade and current account surpluses, even adjusted for its high unemployment. Germany has the world's second-largest trade surplus region. By contrast, the US is the world's largest debtor nation.

In the absence of co-operation between the EU and the US, the euro could create instability

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Its trade and current account deficits are headed well above \$300 billion in 1997. These facts hardly suggest that the European currencies are too strong or that the dollar is too weak. The G-7 should, at a minimum, actively resist further European depreciations and dollar appreciation.

European countries pay relatively little attention to fluctuations in their national currencies vis-à-vis the dollar. But external events will play an even smaller role in the larger, unified European economy. Larger and even more frequent changes in the exchange rate of the euro could be accepted with equanimity. The EU might even promote greater currency movements to achieve external adjustment, as the US has done on occasion.

The EU and the US must recognise that prolonged misalignments would be costly for their economies too. The US learnt this in the mid-Eighties when dollar overvaluation caused an extended recession in manufacturing and agriculture. Given the pivotal role of the EU and the US in global trade policy, such lapses would be extremely harmful to the world economy. A structured exchange-rate regime should be developed to manage the relationship that will emerge between the dollar and the euro.

The EU, Japan and the US should negotiate a target zone system with broad currency bands, perhaps 10 per cent on both sides of a nominal midpoint, that would avoid large current account imbalances and their attendant problems.

When President Giscard d'Estaing of France and Helmut Schmidt, the German Chancellor, decided to create the European monetary system in 1973, one of their goals was to foster a more stable global monetary regime. The creation of EMU could bring that vision closer to reality. However, in the absence of co-operation between the EU and the US, the euro could create instability. It is up to the governments of the two regions to achieve a smooth transition from the sterling and dollar-dominated monetary regimes of the 19th and 20th centuries to a stable dollar and euro system in the early 21st century.

The author is director of the Institute for International Economics (founded from an article in Foreign Affairs, July-August 1997)

□ Anatole Kaletsky is away

Dominic Walsh on Forte's shake-up

## Granada opens the door on a radical shift in hotel policy

Picture the scene. A disgruntled hotel guest goes up to the reception desk and asks to see the manager. "Um, we don't have a manager, sir," comes the embarrassed reply. A ridiculous notion? Not if you happen to be staying at a Forte hotel, where manager-free zones are already a reality.

Granada, which paid £3.9 billion for Forte 18 months ago, has scrapped the jobs of 148 general managers at hotels outside London and appointed 58 regional managers with responsibility for a cluster of between two and six hotels each. In Stratford-upon-Avon, for example, the Forte Posthouse is now run as a single business alongside the Shakespeare and the Shakespear.

Understandably, the move by the UK's largest hotel company has created something of a stir. At the extremes, it is viewed as either an inspirational rewriting of the hotelkeepers' manual or a cynical cost-cutting exercise that paves the way for a wholesale sell-off of assets.

The second theory is given some credence by Granada's decision in May quietly to put a package of 13 hotels, most of them Heritage, up for sale with a £42 million price tag. It is understood that another dozen have already been earmarked for disposal and a number of industry observers believe the brand's days within the company are numbered.

"Anyone who thinks this is going to improve standards for the customer is in cloud-cuckoo-land," said one industry consultant. "It is quite simply a short-term attack on the cost base, and that's not something you do if you're a long-term player in a market. I'm convinced Heritage and Meridien will go the way of Exclusive within two years."

One former Forte executive confirmed that further big disposals were inevitable, but cited the controversial £100 million profit improvement plan promised by Granada at the height of the Forte bid as the biggest factor in the removal of general managers. "There were quite a lot of savings to be made from cutting corporate head office costs and administration, and Granada assumed the same waste would be found in the hotels. The problem is that the hotels have never been overstaffed. The wage bill was already at the lower end of the industry average and there was little or no fat to cut."

He added: "They claim the £100 million is in the bag, but if you buy something for £3.9 billion you can persuade people of whatever you want. The reality is that they have struggled to achieve it and

cutting general managers is seen as helping."

Granada is adamant that cost-savings and disposals are not a factor. Stephen Foster, managing director of Forte UK Hotels, said: "If you compare the resultant cost base against the size of the company as a whole it makes no material difference. If we were looking to cut costs seriously there are other areas we'd have looked at first. What we're doing is using the experience of our most senior general managers over a wider base." He said that all regional managers had been appointed from within the company, although up to 30 recruits had been drafted in — some from the retail sector — to beef up the quality of the hotel operations managers who now report to them.

At the same time, staff at all levels were being put through training programmes as part of a policy of empowering them to deal with any problems. "If there's a problem I'm sure you'd much prefer the member of staff to deal with it immediately than say, 'I'll get the manager'." The decision to

things have slipped at some Heritage hotels.

Many observers believe that the problem centres on a lack of morale prevalent throughout Forte. On top of the changes at general manager level, all but three of the senior management team at the time of the takeover have left and that will shortly become two when Patrick Copeland, head of the worldwide hotel business, leaves in September. "There's total disarray at head office," said one insider. "Nobody disputed that big changes were needed, and we were prepared for a certain amount of upheaval. But they've taken it far too far and taken most of the guts out of the engine. The way they've done it has also upset people."

The other profound change implemented by Granada was on room rates. After years of having uniform tariffs across brands, Forte now charges the highest rate it thinks it can get in any given location. In its roadside Travelodge brand this has meant moving from a standard rate of £36.50 per room to one that ranges from £34.95 to £55.95. The result has been a drop in occupancy to just 63 per cent at the interim stage compared with more than 80 per cent at its big competitor, Whitbread-owned Travel Inn, which charges a single rate of £36.50 outside London. Occupancy in the UK as a whole was more or less stable, and advances in turnover compared poorly with most competitors at what is generally recognised to be a boom time for Britain's hoteliers.

One insider said: "They hiked up the prices last April then boasted about it. One or two big customers got a bit upset by this and moved some of their business elsewhere."

But analysis pointed to June's interim profits as a reflection of the success of Granada's policy. The hotel division as a whole improved turnover by just 3 per cent to £524 million, but pre-tax profits leapt an impressive 58 per cent to £16 million.

The general view in the City is reasonably positive, although doubts over TV advertising revenues have kept Granada's share price well below its peak, despite a rally in the past few days on the back of American buying.

Another leisure analyst said that Gerry Robinson, Granada's chairman, and Charles Allen, chief executive, are "doing what they did with programme-making and challenging the consensus opinion. That tends to upset a lot of people, but it doesn't mean they shouldn't do it. It's too early to say whether it'll work, but by challenging the consensus now they may be creating the consensus of the future."



Robinson: new consensus

recruit from the retail sector is significant, according to Frank Croston, director of hospitality consulting at Arthur Andersen, the accountant. He said: "We're catching up on retail philosophy, where customer service standards and the brand promise is set and maintained centrally, with unit management being required to deliver that locally. In the traditional hotel the general manager is required to become involved in the brand promise."

But there is already evidence that standards are suffering. A senior hotel inspector from one of the best-known hotel guide books said: "Obviously it takes time for big changes such as this to bed down properly, but we've already noticed some deterioration. While I think it has every chance of working with standardised products such as Posthouse — as is already the case with Travelodge — there is no doubt

## Party poopers

UNLUCKY Bill Emmott. The editor of *The Economist* is sending out invitations to a drinks party at the trendy Arts Club in Mayfair on September 9. Unfortunately this is the night of the annual dinner of the Trades Union Congress's general council at their conference in Brighton. Normally, such a gathering of the horny-handed sons of toil would not trouble the diaries of the London *haut monde*. But not under a Labour Government, however new.

Tony Blair will be at the TUC dinner. So will Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, as well

as David Blunkett, Margaret Beckett and a host of other ministers. Likewise CBI head Adair Turner, who will speak at the conference the following day, after the Archbishop of Canterbury of all people. This will leave *The Economist* party looking a little threadbare.

● OLIVER BARING, who runs South African and African corporate finance business at SBC Warburg, has been limping around on crutches and in plaster. His injury, a shattered knee-cap, was sustained bravely on the sports field. Funny time of year to be playing rugby? Perhaps he slipped on the squash court? The perpetrator was Baring's 19-year-old son Esmond, nicknamed Badger, the weapon a croquet ball, accidentally launched at his father. "Croquet is an extremely dangerous game," Baring claims weakly.

### Small print

A SMALL Kent printer is suing Reed Elsevier over the disputed use of the Minerva trademark. Sittingbourne Print has used the name on stationery and packaging sold to local farmers and the like for more than a decade now,



and registered the trade name in 1989. Minerva, originally the Etruscan goddess of arts and crafts, is also the name of a publishing imprint that was owned by Reed. Mike Hill, Sittingbourne's managing director, claims Reed is hiding behind a loophole, because his name is registered to cover paper and paper articles, and Reed claims this description does not cover books.

Bewilderment at the Anglo-Dutch publisher, because Minerva, the book list, was sold to Random House earlier this year. "They can't sue us because we don't own the imprint any more," claims a spokeswoman. Hill insists his David-and-Goliath fight will continue. "It's infringing a registered trademark — I have an absolutely exclusive right to use it. I would like to come to a commercial arrange-

ment." An arrangement, naturally, whereby Reed hands over an amount of money.

### Headhunt

IF THERE really is a mummified pygmy in a bank vault at NatWest, he or she must be well placed for the job of heading NatWest Markets. Two more senior staff are leaving, to join the syndicated finance team at Credit Suisse First Boston. Grant Johnson, a managing director at NatWest Markets, takes on the same job title and becomes head of loan syndications. He is bringing with him David Slade as a director. Also joining CSFB is Richard Auerbury, as a managing director charged with expanding the origination and acquisition finance team within the division. He arrives from the Bank of America in Chicago.

● FROM Mervyn King's brief biog, and a rare attempt at humour from the Bank of England: "He would like to spend more time reading European history, listening to music and playing tennis, which he did regularly before the inflation target was introduced."

### Phone home

IF YOU are lying on a beach in Elit, The Gambia, Phuket or any other exotic destination and a Japanese businessman

plonks himself down on the next sun lounger, tactfully check his beach bag for a name tag. If he is Eisuke Sakakibara, get him to call the office. Sakakibara is a powerful Japanese Finance Ministry official, and rumours that he has been spotted in Tokyo sparked turmoil on Japanese bond markets. He was supposed to be on holiday, so his unscheduled reappearance could only mean action on interest rates, dealers surmised. The ministry in vain insisted that he was out of the country, but would not say where. "He is not in such places as New York, Washington or Europe," said a source. Doesn't narrow it down much, does it?

MARTIN WALLER



"You are held in a queue — your call will be answered in a few weeks. You are held in a..."



The Shakespeare is run alongside two other Forte hotels in Stratford-upon-Avon

## Notice to existing Barclays mortgage customers

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	Old Rate	New Rate
Barclays Mortgage Rate (Centrally administered mortgages) Interest charged monthly.	7.95%	8.20% <small>Effective from 1st August 1997</small>
Barclays Home Mortgage Rate (Branch based mortgages only) Interest charged quarterly.	7.95%	8.20% <small>Effective from 1st August 1997</small>

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Tony Blair, along with Labour colleagues, has spurned *The Economist* in favour of the TUC



THE TIMES FRIDAY AUGUST 1 1997

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## Equities lose ground

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>						
117	117	Adnams Ltd	117.00	+0.12	4.2	13.8
118	118	Beck's & Co	118.00	+0.10	4.5	14.2
119	119	Beck's & Co	119.00	+0.10	4.5	14.2
120	120	Beck's & Co	120.00	+0.10	4.5	14.2
121	121	Beck's & Co	121.00	+0.10	4.5	14.2
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# Hot beats best heard under a duvet of mud

**NEW ALBUMS:** David Sinclair hears Dreadzone, laid-back heroes of summer festivals, come unstuck in the warm and dry

**DREADZONE**  
*Biological Radio*  
(Virgin 7243 8 4408, £13.99)  
IF THERE is one group that can legitimately claim to have captured the sound of the modern British summer it is Dreadzone. Having already appeared at more festivals than any other act this year, they have perfected a balmy mixture of reggae and techno bathed in a warm glow of wholesome spirituality that is the perfect palliative for ears buffeted by extremes of rock'n'roll grandstanding and feet suffering from muddy boot syndrome.

But the air of relaxed bonhomie that produces that all-important feelgood factor on stage becomes a trifle woolly on disc and there are several instrumental tracks towards the end of *Biological Radio*, with ominously vague titles such as *Heat the Pot* and *Dream Within a Dream*, that are little more than extended waffles. Elsewhere, on songs including *The Lost Tribe* and *Earth Angel*, they explore their rumbly-ear philosophy ("I believe in love/I believe in evolution") with good-natured enthusiasm and plenty of clattering, world music percussion.

But with so little substance, and nothing to match the sprightly

tunefulness of last year's hit, *Little Britain*, the album's appeal is likely to prove more of a holiday romance than a long-lasting affair.

**SON VOLT**  
*Straightaways*  
(Warner Bros. 9362-46518 £15.49)  
THE chorus of critical acclaim that greeted Wilco's album *Being There* earlier this year ("The new Exile On Main St" — Everyone) has naturally turned the spotlight in the direction of *Straightaways* by Son Volt, the "other" group to emerge from the ashes of the influential but unsung Illinois band Uncle Tupelo.

If the resulting glare proves, at times, to be a little too searching for comfort, then that is because the songs of Son Volt's singer and leader Jay Farrar do not have quite the same breadth of vision or obvious sense of mission as those written by his former Uncle Tupelo partner Jeff Tweedy for the Wilco album.

But what Farrar has got instead is a classic country-rock voice, which he applies to a fund of wonderfully crafted songs squarely located in an American roots music tradition that stretches from Gram Parsons to the Jayhawks.

From Memphis to New

Orleans/In and out of railroad dreams/You're out there it seems, passing by," Farrar sings in *Crescent*, a slow, lilting song effortlessly graced with mournful pedal steel and cascading acoustic guitar breaks. With fiddle, banjo and harmonica augmenting the unplugged, guitar-band sound, the album embraces good-natured, down-the-line rockers (*Caryatid Easy*, *Picking up the Signal*) alongside darker spiritual laments such as *Been Set Free*, with an old-fashioned air of authority that is rare among artists of his relatively youthful vintage.

**DPNOTE**  
*Dynote*  
(VC Recordings 7243 8 44528 £11.49)

THERE is a generation of master musicians now emerging in Britain that would doubtless have ended up playing straight jazz or fusion had they not spent their formative years immersed in the sounds and social life of the dance/dub/rave scene. Instead, players and producers such as Roni Size of Reprazent and Tom Jenkinson of Squarepusher have gravitated towards drum and bass, a form of musical minimalism that offers virtually unlimited scope for spectacular displays of rhythmic ingenuity.

About a decade older than Size and Jenkinson, Matt Wynn of DPNote is another of this breed, but one with a more rounded musical portfolio. On his third album, he combines "proper" piano and flute

Compact discs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023496



The relaxed bonhomie that produces that all-important feelgood factor on stage becomes a trifle woolly on disc for Dreadzone

## TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 (1) *The Fat of the Land* .....Prodigy (XL Recordings)
- 2 (6) *White on Blonde* .....Texas (Mercury)
- 3 (2) *Spice* .....Spice Girls (Virgin)
- 4 (3) *OK Computer* .....Radiohead (OK Computer)
- 5 (4) *The Best of Michael Jackson & Jackson 5* (Polygram TV)
- 6 (11) *Sheryl Crow* .....Sheryl Crow (A&M)
- 7 (12) *Do It Yourself* .....Seahorses (Geffen)
- 8 (5) *Come Find Yourself* .....Fun Lovin' Criminals (Chrysalis)
- 9 (7) *Heavy Soul* .....Paul Weller (Island)
- 10 (30) *No Way Out* .....Puff Daddy & the Family (Puff Daddy)

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Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

## Global warming

**CELEA LIEBMAN, REISINGER**  
*World View*  
(Label Bleu LBLC 0592 HM 83)

A "MAGICAL maiden voyage for three open souls with mutual respect" is American saxophonist David Liebman's description of this free-flowing, guisy album, recorded in France, but containing music drawn from a rich variety of sources: free jazz, world music, fusion and others.

All three participants have appropriately versatile musical pasts — French bassist Jean-Paul Celea has worked with everyone from Pierre Boulez to John McLaughlin; Liebman with Miles Davis, Elvin Jones and his own wide-ranging rock and jazz bands; drummer Wolfgang Reisinger with the embodiment of arty European eclecticism, the Vienna Art Orchestra — and they exploit all their experience in 12 three-way musical conversations ranging from collectively improvised pieces through tumbling, punchily informal workouts to scrabbling free-form jams. Fresh,

## JAZZ ALBUMS

passionate, open-ear, this is world music in the best sense of the term.

**ENRICO RAVA QUARTET**  
*Animals*  
(Inak 8801 CD)

RECORDED in 1987 in Milan, this CD reissue catches Italian trumpeter Enrico Rava, guitarist Augusto Mancinelli, bassist Furio Di Castri and drummer Mauro Beggio on eight in-house originals that could all be roughly described as fusion (courtesy chiefly of Mancinelli's cascading, hard-edged runs and Beggio's thunderous attack).

Rava is, however, too mercurial a performer to fit easily into such a rigid category: the elegantly funky title track could almost be an out-take from an early 1970s Miles Davis album, but elsewhere, he rings the changes with stately ballads, hurtling neopop and tumbling blues. A typically intelligent album.

CHRIS PARKER

**IN CONCERT:** Hard lessons for a soul ingenue; cheerful revision by a top tribute band; master class at the piano

## She still needs some body

**Shola Ama**  
*Jazz Cats, NW1*

If we take the showbiz story at face value, then had Shola Ama not been humming to herself while waiting at Hammersmith Tube station for a train to Heathrow, she might never have reached the arrivals lounge of the British charts.

As it is, her vocal doodles were overheard by Kwame, from the British soul collective D-Influence, and pen was soon put to paper. The 18-year-old ingenue recently completed a three-month run in the bestsellers with a confident remake of the Randy Crawford hit *You Might Need Somebody*, selling a spectacular 350,000 copies.

With a follow-up single, *You're the One I Love*, out soon and her debut album around the next corner, Ama is at a pivotal moment in her fledgling career. Down one road lies international acclaim and a place in the vanguard of British rhythm & blues. Straying down the other could see

her trapped in a cul de sac, cluttered with the dim memories of previous British soul hopefuls such as David Grant and Kenny Thomas.

In recent months Ama has paid some stage dues as the opening act for ST and the Puppets, and appearing at festivals. All the same, this London date felt like a debut of sorts and the place was choc-full, although the buzz of chatter that continued after she began suggested this was as much a gig to be seen as to be listened to.

Kwame's pontificating introductory speech seemed to load the dice of expectation, and Ama cut a meek figure at the top of the show, tiptoeing into tracks from that forthcoming album, *Much Love*, such as *We Got a Vibe* and the title song. Her wide-eyed eagerness to impress had one redeeming feature: a more authoritative performance, perhaps an unreasonable request of one so young. She will come to know that true soulfulness is about more than the frequent repetition of the word "baby".

Some of her material, most of which she writes or co-writes, has the groove to survive in the domestic R&B climate, but her lyrics are almost all bald retreads of emotional conceits that had



Shola Ama will learn that true soulfulness is about more than the frequent repetition of the word "baby"

already gone around the clock in soul's heyday. *Who's Loving My Baby* was a stylish exception, and the new single lent a little more muscle before you

Might Need Somebody, saved for last, brought the loudest cheer of the night.

PAUL SEXTON

## Rhythms of a quieter age

**New Warren**  
*Vortex, N16*

A HOT, airless night in north London, filled with the sounds of passing police sirens and the street, was the unlikely setting for the first performance of pianist Hugh Warren's new suite for string trio and jazz septet, *A Barrel Organ* (Far From Home).

Each of the sections of the piece is inspired by a photograph of town or country life more than half a century ago, and in an intriguing blend of folk, jazz and contemporary composition each brings these blurry images of a quieter age vividly to life. The opening part set a melancholy tone that persisted through much of the evening, with the strings providing a gloomy backdrop to the clarinet of Pete Whymann and the fagoleer of Steve Buckley.

Throughout the suite such reflective sections were alternated with jaunty, angular melodies, radiant of barrel organ themes, and, over the

as dawn broke and the gaslights guttered out. Against some of Warren's strongest writing, Argüelles blistered through free and composed sections alike, leaving Whymann's swirling clarinet in his wake.

The most outstanding player of the evening was Warren himself, contorting himself into knots as he scurried over the keyboard, constantly adding invention, surprise and interest as he cheerfully spurred his musicians on. The breadth of his playing experience, from groups like Perfect Houseplants and Billy Jenkins's Voice of God Collective to accompanying singers June Tabor and Christine Tobin, has stood him in good stead as band leader and composer, and this material should help to consolidate his reputation when it appears on CD later in the year.

ALYN SHIPTON

## Learning fun on the A-level train

The name suggests something demure, elegant and, well, museum-like. Do not be deceived. Peter Long's genial repertoire band, the Echoes of Ellington Orchestra, certainly does not skimp on the authenticity on, say, *Rockin' in Rhythm*, but neither does it treat Duke Ellington's music as a dust-covered artefact of interest only to drinkers of warm beer and collectors of well-worn 78s.

We will always have the records to cling to, of course, and in recent years there has been an outpouring of books that shed more light on the musician dubbed "the hot Bach". Some of the scholarly attention, in fact, threatens to become excessively solemn and reverential, as if Ellington really did learn his craft in Köthen rather than the Cotton Club.

Long and his hard-blowing colleagues provide an important service by adding a whiff of perspiration and humour to the Ellington industry. They remind us that the bandleader who devoted so much of his energy to suites and sacred concerts had one foot in the entertainment industry.

The musician who wrote the concert piece *Black Brown and Beige* also turned out the catchy melody of *Satin Doll*.

The presence of *Happy Go Lucky* local in the opening set summed up the mood. Lifted from the *Deep South Suite*, its shuffle beat hints at the visceral momentum of early rhythm and blues; in later years, it was subtly transformed into *Night Train*, that perennial favourite of both soul brother James Brown and boxer Sonny Liston.

Having heard Wynton Marsalis's Lincoln Centre Orchestra cover much the same

**Echoes of Ellington Orch**  
*100 Club, W1*

ground, it was fascinating to see how well Long's musicians coped with what is presumably a much more slender budget. The piece brought out some of the grandstanding tendencies in the orchestra, dog-whistle notes flying in all directions from a trumpet section which featured the admirable Bruce Adams in full Cat Anderson mode.

Long imposed greater discipline on Billy Strayhorn's melody, *Sinbad*, the saxophones supplying the darker textures on cue. Strayhorn's most famous contribution to the songbook, *Take the A Train*, is one of those warhorses that most people would gladly do without, having heard it played so many times down the years. This, however, was a refurbished arrangement, with the extended piano introduction seamlessly moving into a higher gear from a sprightly waltz opening.

The band's vocalist, Patti Revell, overcame the unsympathetic amplification to exchange sultry banter with the rest of the musicians, temporarily transformed into self-styled Raveltones. Altoist Peter Ripper regularly bobbed into view with elegant approximations of Johnny Hodges, while Ray Gelato, a latter-day Louis Prima, made a guest appearance later, reinforcing the band's popular credentials. The recipe is served up with a flourish on the new live album, *Rockin' in Ronnie's* (Jazz House).

CLIVE DAVIS

### folkselection

**TAMALIN RHYTHM & RHYME**  
Newcomers Tamalin apply a different touch to some excellent traditional playing. This lot are on their way. \*\*\*\*0

**LOMA - LIVE HEAVEN'S BRIGHT SUN**  
Celtic, Atmospheric, Spiritual. Loma's musical statement of individuality and inspiration. Capture a glimpse of Heaven's Bright Sun...

**COOKING VINYL SAMPLER VARIOUS**  
Includes tracks by Billy Bragg, Pere Ubu, Oysterband, Great Big Sea, Ani DiFranco and Wedding Present.

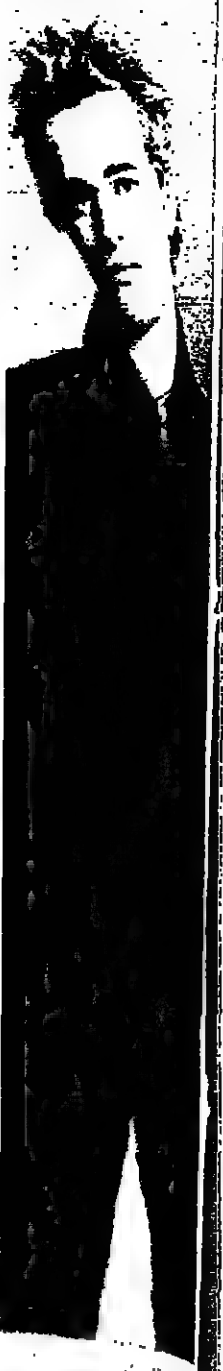
**GREAT BIG SEA UP**  
From Newfoundland their raucous good humour lifted a rain soaked Saturday at the Cambridge Folk Festival. The Times

**TASTER VARIOUS**  
This, the first Park Taster CD, is a 15 track CD including 2 unreleased bonus tracks by Maddy Prior, making this a must for all Maddy Prior fans.

**WOLFSTONE PICK OF THE LITTER**  
A new sound based on old traditions. Wolfstone represent a new generation of musicians who take music back to the basics of having fun.

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From  
Europe

Angel Williamson meets those block-rockin' Chemical Brothers, unlikely rulers of the pop charts

# We have the technology

**Y**ou can take your pick when describing the music of the Chemical Brothers. The *Race* called it "psychedelic trip-hop transmuting space-herbed electro techno rock'n'roll with extra superfly funk". Elsewhere, the more succinct "big beats" has become the accepted currency. The title of their most recent chart-topping single, *Block Rockin' Beats*, conveyed the idea equally well, a driving, electronic dance sound with more beats per minute than you can count and decibel levels to make your brains dribble. Dance acts such as the Chemical Brothers have restored the musical generation gap and resurrected the perennial war-cry of "then that goes down". You're only as old as the Chemicals make you feel.

In the past 12 months they have moved from underground cult club DJs to international stardom. Together with the Prodigy they epitomise the triumph of dance culture, a ten-year takeover that began with acid house. This year the Chemicals became the first British dance act to sell a million in America with their album *Dig Your Own Hole*. The Prodigy's *Braindance* followed, crashing into the American album charts on the strength of the prestigious Mercury Music Prize. At last there is a homegrown sound to rival Britpop, and it came as no surprise when Noel Gallagher lent his voice to the Chemicals' first No.1 single, *Setting Sun*.

But despite their success, Ed Simons and Tom Rowlands, the non-siblings who make up the Chemical Brothers, remain largely anonymous. We had arranged to meet in their local pub in Notting Hill and Simons, who looks more likely to sell you a life insurance policy than a block rockin' beat, was already there. I sat at the next table without realising who he was and the introductions were only made with the arrival of Rowlands, unmistakable with his Rick Wakeman-style long blond hair. Fortunately there is no rock star attitude about either of them. "We haven't got huge egos," Simons says. "We are what we are, nice middle-class kids."

The early part of the Chemicals' story is hardly the stuff of which rock'n'roll legends are made — they met in 1989 when medieval history students at Manchester University. But before long they were being inspired more by hip hop and acid house than Beowulf and the Bede, and began DJ-ing around Manchester and making their own records.

"We were bored, and so I created a little electronic studio in my bedroom," Rowlands says. "We made *Song to the Siren*, and it was different from anything else around. DJs started playing it at techno clubs and it would wake up the night."

Although they have now made the crossover, the idea that dance is a superior underground culture, far removed from anything else around, industry continues to sustain the Chemicals' world view. "Dance cuts through the machinations of the industry. In pop and rock you have to negotiate with this huge infrastructure," Simons says. "In dance music you give the single to a DJ and he plays it in the clubs. That is all you need. Major labels sign dance acts from hearing a demo, and that just doesn't work. You have to build from the roots: good club DJs are not going to play records sent to them by Sony or Virgin."



"What we play has a greater degree of musical performance than a lot of rock bands," says Ed Simons (left, with fellow Chemical Tom Rowlands)

Yet by 1995 the Chemicals had themselves signed to Virgin and their first album, *Exit Planet Dust* (a reference to their origins as the Dust Brothers, a name lost in a legal wrangle with a similarly titled American act) sold more than 200,000 copies. *Setting Sun* followed, and the popquest was completed this summer with *Dig Your Own Hole*.

Although the beat is uncompromisingly loud and booming, attentive listening reveals a range of influences which help to explain the breadth of their appeal. "We are into the power of the sound," Simons says, "but it is a shame if people only hear the drums because there is a lot of other complicated stuff there as well."

One element which has made the Chemicals accessible to rock as well as dance audiences is their love affair with 1960s psychedelia, particularly the Beatles of *Tomorrow Never Knows* vintage. They were people with limited technology really pushing the boundaries," Rowlands says. "We wanted to push on from that, and loud, disorientating acid house music seemed a natural progression. There is a spirit of adventure because

the club audience is receptive. You can do almost anything on the dance floor."

The Chemical Brothers have also become a hugely popular live act. To those brought up on guitars and

playing live. You get a beat and then you start playing around with it through a drum pad on the sequencer. It is like jamming, and it is so flexible — we don't have to go to the verse here or the chorus there. If we

It is a shame if people only hear the drums?

get something we like and the audience is into it we just go on. It's really exciting."

Simons is also annoyed by those who fail to understand electronic music's creativity. "We know when we have done a good gig, but then we read a review which says yes, great sound, but it's not real music. It is a lot freer and less rigid than a band that rehearses for two

months before going out on the road. What we play has a greater degree of musical performance than a lot of rock bands."

The defence is spirited and eloquent, but surely dance music and its samples remains essentially a parasitic art form? "Parasitic is not an insult," Simons says. "If you came to

our studio the main thing you would see is other music, thousands of records. That is our starting point, using sounds not in a parasitical way, but in a complicated, artistic way, morphing them to our own needs."

We move on to another difficult subject — the central role of drugs in dance music. The very name of the band seems to imply the link, but Simons is matter-of-fact. "The music is not aimed at drugged-up dance floors, but that is one of the surroundings in which it works. This is life-affirming music."

We part as the photographer takes them off to London's Westway in search of some gritty urban realism for a backdrop. It seems appropriate, given that the title of the current album was inspired by a piece of graffiti on a wall. "But we've now found a poem by Yoko Ono called *Dig Your Own Hole*," Simons says. "Do you think we'd get more credibility if we said it came from there?"

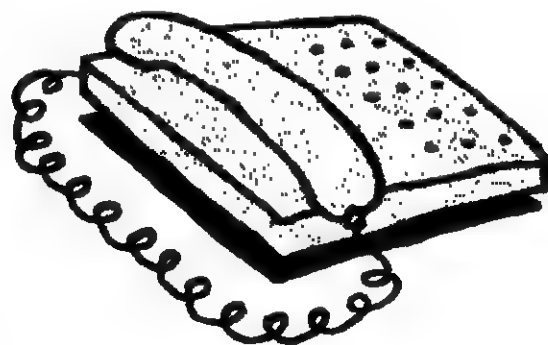
Elekrobank, the Chemical Brothers' new single, is released on Virgin/Prestyle Dust on August 18. The band plays the V9 Festival in Chelmsford on August 16 and Leeds on August 17.

"OCH AYE  
YE CAN SAVE  
YERSELF  
A FORTUNE."

"EEE CHUCK  
THAT MERCURY  
SAVES A  
BOB OR TWO."

"WHY AYE  
IT'S A CANNY  
MOVE THAT  
MERCURY."

"DASHED GOOD  
SAVINGS  
FROM THOSE  
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**Fiery jazz, rock and  
hard dances, swirling  
dizzy, joyous, tight  
slapping drums.**

Widely renowned for their  
high Traditional Irish  
music, **Alan** return with  
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This album contains traditional  
Irish music, but also  
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## Don't hit the road Jack, stay home

It may sound like hip heaven, but  
going on the road with a band is hell

"ON THE road." It's such a sexy, thrilling, who-knows-where-we'll-be-tomorrow phrase, evoking Roman caravans, and Jack Kerouac passing out in the boot of a Ford Mustang, out of his tiny mind on Nature's more interesting shrubs and cacti. You imagine a week of hanging out in the tour bus, cracking jokes that later get used in lyrics, being regarded as one of the gang by the road crew, and playing a tangle-hoed tambourine solo in front of 50,000 screaming Mexicans, while the lead singer points at you in a dramatic, this-is-our-guru way. In short, going on the road is a journalist's chance to recreate *Stars in Their Eyes* while impossibly drunk in a country that's pleasantly hot.

Is it like that? Is it bobbins. You fly out, meet a homesick and hungover group of musicians who grill you for three hours on current plot twists in *Brookside* and *Teletubbies*, sit in a breeze-block dressing room while they swap in-jokes with each other, watch the gig, go back to the hotel for an hour-long interview with an exhausted and drunken lead singer, and mope to bed. If it's an American trip, then the next day is spent trailing around after a press officer who is desperately trying to find (a) a coke dealer or (b) a place that does discounts on Maybelline mascara in

built for everyone in the office. Of course, none of this would matter as much if journalists' pride was assuaged by a laminate. Laminates are the gold discs of tour life, only usually issued to road-crew, band members and press officers. Every hack craves to have the Access All Areas necklaces, if only because it allows you access to the seated areas of venues, so you can sit down and have a nice little nap while the band play. So coveted are these passes that Jonathan King walks around with every laminate he's ever been issued slung around his neck, like a smug Hawaiian garland.

But instead of this sexy, compact medallion, hacks on trips are issued with a sick-on-Guest Pass, which makes you feel like one of those cashiers at Superdrug with "My name is SANDRA, how may I help?" emblazoned on their breast. And it rips the pile off velvet and other tactile fabrics when you try to remove it.

So don't think going on the road with a band is a crazy one-way ticket to rock'n'roll Valhalla. It's just a frock-rumouring exercise in boredom, only relieved by an hour of frantic brain-searching, while you try to remember whether Jackie Dixon from *Brookside* is going for that eye operation or Jack Kerouac would rather have stayed at home.



CAITLIN MORAN







## Internal flight alternative

**Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Robinson**

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment July 11]

Where an asylum seeker had a well founded fear of persecution in relation to one area in his home state but no such fear in respect of another area the question whether he should reasonably be expected to relocate to the safe area, the internal flight alternative, was properly to be treated as a question of fact within the meaning of the Geneva Convention of 1951 (and 1967) and the Protocol of 1967 (and 1968) relating to the Status of Refugees.

Accordingly, the immigration appellate authorities had jurisdiction under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993 to consider the internal flight alternative in determining whether an asylum seeker's removal would contravene the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

In seeking to appeal, an asylum seeker was required to state his grounds of appeal in his notice and the appellate body was not required to engage in a search for new grounds; but where there was a readily discernible and obvious point of Convention law favourable to the asylum seeker, which was not taken on his behalf, the special adjudicator, the Immigration Appeal Tribunal, on an application for leave to appeal, and the High Court, on an application for leave, to move for judicial review, should nevertheless apply it.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an application by Mr Anthony Robinson for judicial review of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal's refusal of leave to appeal from the special adjudicator who had dismissed his appeal from the refusal of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to grant him leave to enter the United Kingdom.

On the applicant's appeal under section 8 of the 1993 Act the special adjudicator had found that he had a well founded fear of persecution in the Jaffna region of Sri Lanka from which he originated but that no such fear could be established in respect of Colombo to which he had travelled before fleeing to the United Kingdom where he had claimed asylum.

The applicant sought leave to appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal but did not state in his

grounds that the adjudicator should have considered factors relevant to the reasonableness or otherwise of his returning to Colombo.

Mr Nicholas Blake, QC and Mr Raza Hussain for the applicant; Mr David Parnick, QC and Miss Alison Foster for the Home Secretary; Mr Mark Shaw for the Immigration Appeal Tribunal.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the Geneva Convention did not deal expressly with a situation where a person might technically be able to live in part of a country free of fear but for some reason it was not reasonable to expect him to do so.

No international court was charged with the interpretation and implementation of the Convention and therefore the Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status published in 1979 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was a particularly helpful guide to what was the international understanding of the Convention obligations, as applied in practice.

The 1979 Handbook stated that fear of persecution did not always need to extend to the whole territory of the refugee's country of nationality; that persecution of a specific ethnic or national group might occur in only one part and in such a case a person would not be excluded from refugee status merely because he could have sought refuge in another part. If it was not reasonable to expect him to do so.

A similar concept was to be found in paragraph 8 of the Joint Position of the Council of the European Union and based on article 13 of the Treaty on European Union 1996 (OJ No L249/2) where persecution appeared to be confined to a specific part of a country's territory the decision-maker should ascertain whether the claimant could not find effective protection in another part of his own country to which he might reasonably be expected to move.

The Joint Position reflected a contemporary understanding of the obligations created by the Convention, which was not confined to member states of the European Union and was based on the principle that the international protection afforded by the Convention would only come into play when a country could not afford the claimant protection within its own frontiers: see *Carr-*

*ada (AG) v Ward* (1993) 103 DLR (4th) 1. It followed that if the home state could afford what was called variously "relocation", "safe haven" or "internal flight alternative" where the claimant would not have a well founded fear of persecution, then international protection was unnecessary.

But it had to be reasonable for him to go and stay in that safe haven. In determining whether that was so a decision-maker would have to consider all the circumstances of the case against the backdrop that the issue was whether the claimant was entitled to refugee status.

The court considered as particularly helpful the test stated by Justice of Appeal Linden in *Thirunavukarasu v Minister of Employment and Immigration* (1993) 109 DLR (4th) 682: "Would it be unduly harsh to move to the claimant's... to move to another less hostile part of the country before seeking refugee status abroad?"

The use of the words "unduly harsh" fairly reflected that what was in issue was whether a claimant could reasonably be expected to move to a particular part of the country.

If the question of the internal flight alternative arose, the answer went directly to the issue whether the claimant should properly be treated as a refugee within the meaning of the Convention, or whether he might legitimately be returned to that part of his home country consistently with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

The jurisdiction of the appellate authorities derived exclusively from section 8 of the 1993 Act. Different divisions of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal had considered that they had no jurisdiction on appeals to consider the internal flight alternative because it did not impinge on the United Kingdom's obligations.

They were wrong so to conclude. The Court of Appeal in *Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Robinson* (unreported, July 15, 1996) and *R v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Shivananthan* (unreported May 21, 1997) assumed without hearing argument that the question could be considered on a section 8 appeal. After hearing full argument in the present case, the court concluded that their assumption was correct.

The secretary of state and the appellate authorities would do well in future to adopt the approach which was set out in paragraph 8

of the Joint Position and the test suggested by Justice of Appeal Linden.

On the question whether appellate authorities should consider grounds not raised in the notice of appeal, it was the duty of such authorities to apply their knowledge of Convention jurisprudence to the facts as established by them when determining whether it would be a breach of the Convention to refuse a claimant leave to enter as a refugee.

They were not limited in their consideration by the arguments actually advanced by the claimant or his representative. If data of Lord Justice Hoffmann in *Anandandaramajay v Immigration Appeal Tribunal* (1996) 1mm AR 514, 519 was interpreted as adopting a more restrictive approach it should not be followed.

It would, however, be wrong to say that mere arguability should be the criterion to be applied: a higher hurdle was required. Appellate authorities should focus primarily on the arguments advanced before them, whether advanced orally before the special adjudicator or in a written notice of appeal before the appeal tribunal.

But they were not required to engage in a search for new points. If there was a readily discernible and obvious point of Convention law which favoured the applicant although he had not taken it, then the special adjudicator should be required to consider it, and he should feel under no obligation to prolong the hearing by asking the parties for submissions on points which they had not taken but which could be properly considered as arguable as opposed to obvious.

Similarly, if when the tribunal read the special adjudicator's decision there was an obvious point of Convention law favourable to the applicant which did not appear in his notice, he was under no obligation to consider it.

An obvious point was one which had a strong prospect of success if argued: nothing less would do. It followed that leave to apply for judicial review of a refusal by a tribunal to grant leave to appeal should be granted if the judge was of the opinion that it was properly arguable that a point not raised in the grounds of appeal to the tribunal had a strong prospect of success if leave were granted.

On the facts of the present case, however, the appeal tribunal had not erred in refusing leave to appeal.

Solicitors: Nathan & Co; Treasury Solicitor; Treasury Solicitor.

**Wall v Lefever and Another**  
Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Oton

[Judgment July 14]

The wasted costs jurisdiction was a salutary and summary remedy to be used when a clear picture could be readily drawn to indicate that professional legal advisers had acted improperly, unreasonably or negligently, within the meaning of section 51 of the Supreme Court Act 1981, as amended by section 4 of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

If the judge who had heard the evidence and seen the witnesses, refused to make such an order an appeal was only justified if some point of principle indicated that his approach had been wholly wrong.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the first defendant, Anthony Lefever, from a judgment of Mr Justice Oton in *Wall v Lefever and Another* (unreported, July 14, 1997) in which the judge had ordered that a wasted costs order be made against the plaintiff, a company, and its legal representatives.

Mr Robert Sherman for Mr Lefever; Mr Giles Kavanagh and Mr Mark Lomas for the plaintiff's legal representatives at trial.

LORD WOOLF said that the present case raised a question as to the appropriate use of the wasted

costs jurisdiction which was an important remedy available to the courts to ensure that litigation was conducted in the proper manner by the parties' legal representatives.

His Lordship referred to the relevant legislative provisions and in *Ridgely v Horsfield* (1994) Ch 205, 220 to the tension between two important public interests, to wit Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, had drawn attention.

1. That lawyers should not be deterred from pursuing their clients' interests by fear of incurring a personal liability to their clients' opponents, that they should not be penalised by orders to pay costs although a fair opportunity to defend themselves and that such orders should not become a backdoor means of recovering costs not otherwise recoverable against a legally aided or impoverished litigant, and

2. That litigants should not be financially prejudiced by the unjustified conduct of litigation by one or their opponents' lawyers.

His Lordship said that great care should be exercised before launching an appeal against the refusal of a wasted costs order by a judge at first instance who had heard the evidence and seen the witnesses.

The jurisdiction was salutary as long as it was not allowed to be a vehicle for generating substantial additional costs to the parties, and it should not be used to create

subordinate or satellite litigation which was as complex and expensive as the original litigation.

It was however, an appropriate remedy where the need was reasonably clearly obvious; it was a summary remedy to be used where a clear picture could be readily drawn indicating that the professional advisers' conduct had fallen within that proscribed by section 51 of the 1981 Act.

If the judge concluded that it had not, then an appeal was only justified if some point of principle indicated that the judge's approach had been wholly wrong. That was not the present case.

In ordering indemnity costs, his Lordship referred to *Burgess v Stafford Hotel Ltd* (1991) 1 WLR 1215, referred to in *The Supreme Court Practice* 1997 (volume 1 paragraph 22/53 p1057).

He did not dissent from the view there expressed, that where there was a statutory right of appeal the appellate court was unlikely to interfere with the exercise of the judge's discretion, save in a strong case.

Lord Justice Oton agreed.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON, concurring, endorsed in particular the commentary in *The Supreme Court Practice* 1997 (at p1071) which drew attention to the importance for the court, on a wasted costs application, to bear prominently in mind the peculiar vulnerability of legal representatives acting for legally aided persons.

Solicitors: Cunningham John & Co; Theobald, Steele & Co; Harlington; Reynolds; Porter Chamberlain.

## Duty to pay for school named in statement

**White and Another v Ealing London Borough Council and Another**  
**Richardson v Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Another**  
**Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Another v Finn**

Before Mr Justice Dyson

[Judgment July 8]

There was no absolute duty upon either an educational authority or the Special Educational Needs Tribunal to name a particular school in a statement of special educational needs but where a school was named the educational authority was under a duty to arrange and pay for the school even if it was not maintained.

Mr Justice Dyson so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing appeals by Simon and David White against Ealing London Borough Council and the Special Educational Needs Tribunal; Ben Richardson against Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and the tribunal; and James Finn against Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and the tribunal against James Finn.

Mr Nicholas Bowen for Simon and David White; Mr John Friel for Ealing; Miss Chloe Booth, QC and Mr Clive Lewis for Ben Richardson and James Finn; Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC and Miss Marie Demetriou for Solihull; Miss Natalie Lieven for the tribunal.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that Simon and David White, twins, Ben Richardson and James Finn were children who suffered from autism. The appropriate education authority issued statements accept-

ing each child had special educational needs.

The parents of the children asked them to attend the Boston Higashi School, a non-maintained school. None of the educational authority statements named that school as appropriate to cater for the special educational needs of the child concerned.

Two of the children, Ben Richardson and James Finn, were placed at the Boston Higashi School by their parents. The school fees were paid partly by each child's parents and partly by charitable fund raising.

All the children lodged appeals, inter alia, against the contents of their statements to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal. In respect of Ben Richardson, the tribunal had held that a residential placement was not necessary and amended the statement "Ben should attend a special school... in a non-residential setting".

In respect of Simon and David White the tribunal amended their statements to delete reference to a particular school and substituting a description of the type of school which was appropriate in their special educational needs.

In respect of James Finn, the tribunal concluded that the Boston Higashi School, which James was already attending, met his special educational needs and that that school should be named in the statement. The tribunal also found that the education authority was responsible for the fees of the Boston Higashi School not maintained school.

It was submitted on behalf of Richardson and White that the tribunal was always under a duty to name a school as part of the special educational provision.

The education authorities submitted that although there was a power to name a school as part of the special educational provision there was no duty to do so.

His Lordship considered sections 234, 236, 335 of and Schedule 27 to the Education Act 1944 and concluded that the decision of an education authority whether or not to name a school involved a considerable element of judgment both as to whether a particular school was appropriate and, having regard to the statutory duties in sections 9 and 31b, whether a particular school should be named.

Paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 27 in the 1944 Act imposed a similar duty in relation to schools in the maintained sector.

His Lordship said that there was no absolute duty on an education authority to name a maintained or non-maintained school in a statement. Equally section 32b of the 1944 Act placed no duty upon a tribunal to name a school in a statement although it had a power to do so.

The tribunal had held that the education authority had a duty to pay for the special educational provision of James Finn and that it was not relieved of that duty because his parents had placed him at the school.

That holding was ultra vires. There was no statutory provision which gave the tribunal power to rule upon any funding obligation.

His Lordship considered sections 234(3), 348, and 517(9) of the 1944 Act. Sections 348 and 517(9) were coming into force on September 1, 1997 by SI 1997 No 1623 (a7) but it was agreed between the parties that his Lordship should apply them.

The duty in section 324(3) of the 1944 Act was to arrange or ensure that specified special educational provision was available. There was a separate duty to pay for such arrangements which in practice would usually fall upon education authorities.

Under section 517(4) and (5) and section 348 the duty in arrangement arose if the parents had not made suitable arrangements. The duty to pay arose if the education au-

thority was satisfied it was expedient in the child's interests that the special educational provision should be made for him in a non-maintained school.

When section 517(4) was replaced in September by section 348 the duty to pay would arise if the name of the school was specified in the statement or the education authority was satisfied of the matters set out in section 348(1)(b) and (ii).

The decision as to the suitability of the arrangements made by the parents was for the education authority alone who should take into account arrangements already in place effected by parents subject to review on administrative law principles.

In the case of James Finn, an education authority acting reasonably would have taken the decision the tribunal took. The words of Mr Justice Auld, albeit obiter, in *R v Hackney London Borough Council, Ex parte G C* (1995) ELR 144 were adopted with the gloss that suitable arrangements made by the parents must at least include arrangements for funding for a reasonable time.

Mr and Mrs Finn had paid two terms' fees in advance to the Boston Higashi School. It was unreasonable of the education authority to decide suitable arrangements had been made because the parents would be able to finance schooling by future fund raising. It was unreasonable for the authority to seek to relieve itself of its duty by relying on parents to raise finance that way.

The education authority was in breach of its duty to arrange for the making of special educational provision for James Finn in accordance with section 324(3) and in breach of its duty to pay for that provision in accordance with sections 517(4) and (5) of the 1944 Act.

Solicitors: Teacher Stern Selby; Mr Richard Pollard, Ealing; Rust Mox & Co, Accrington; Mr Blamire-Brown, Solihull; Treasury Solicitor.

## Authorising compulsory purchase order

**Chesterfield Properties plc and Another v Secretary of State for the Environment and Others**

Before Mr Justice Laws

[Judgment July 24]

In considering whether to make a compulsory purchase order, the Secretary of State for the Environment was not required to consider on the balance of probability whether the purpose for which it was required would be carried out.

Mr Justice Laws so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing the appeals of Chesterfield Properties plc and Kwik Save Group plc against the decision of the secretary of state to order the compulsory purchase of land in Stockton-on-Tees, and other decisions ancillary to the development of the land made by the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides:

"(1) A local authority to whom this section applies shall, on being authorised to do so by the secretary of state, have power to acquire compulsorily any land, in their area which (a) is suitable for and required in order to secure the carrying out of development, or (b) is required for a purpose which it is necessary to achieve in the interests of the proper planning of an area in which the land is situated."

Mr Timothy Straker, QC and Mr Robert Lewis for Chesterfield; Mr Anthony Dwyer, QC and Mr Robin Green for Kwik Save; Mr David Holgate, QC for both secretaries of state; Mr John Steel, QC and Mr Murray Hunt for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

MR JUSTICE LAWS said that,

Mr Straker had asserted that, purely as a matter of the true construction of section 226(1)(a), the secretary of state could not lawfully authorise a compulsory purchase order unless he was satisfied that the development to which it related would probably be carried out.

He referred to the conjunctive phrase "in order to" which he said might have been omitted, its presence revealing that there had to be a direct connection between the exercise of the power and the object in view.

His Lordship rejected that argument. Of course the secretary of state might only deploy the power to confirm an order for the purpose

for which the subsection conferred it.

However, there was nothing in the words of section 226(1)(a) to impose what would amount to a requirement of precedent fact before the secretary of state might authorise the order.

Had Parliament intended that the secretary of state's power should only arise if he were satisfied on the balance of probability that the development would be carried out, it would have so provided in clear terms.

Solicitors: Bervin, Leighton; Bullivant Jones & Co, Liverpool; Treasury Solicitor; Addleshaw Booth & Co.

## European Law Report

## Luxembourg

## The concept of waste in disposal regulations

**Criminal proceedings against Tomba and Others**  
Joined Cases C-304/94, C-330/94, C-342/94 and C-224/95

The concept of "waste" in Community provisions on the management and disposal of waste was not to be understood as excluding substances and objects which were capable of economic reutilisation.

The Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, inter alia, on June 25, on references under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Pretura Circondariale di Terni and the Pretura Circondariale di Pescara in criminal proceedings in which the accused were charged with transporting, discharging, disposing of or incinerating urban and special waste produced by third parties without first obtaining authorisation from the competent region.

The provisions interpreted by the Court were article 1 of Council Directive 75/442/EEC of July 15, 1975 on waste as amended by Council Directive 91/156/EEC of March 18, 1991 (OJ 1991 L78 p32).

Article 33 provides: "Without prejudice to the provisions of this directive shall not prevent a member state from maintaining or introducing taxes on (various matters) and, more generally, any taxes, duties or charges which cannot be characterised as turnover taxes."

The Court said that article 33 enabled member states to maintain or introduce certain indirect taxes such as estate duties on the EC Treaty by the Audiencia Nacional (National High Court), Spain.

referred to in article 1(3) of Council Directive 91/699/EEC of December 12, 1991 on hazardous waste (OJ 1991 L377 p20) and article 31a of Council Regulation (EEC) No 259/93 of February 1, 1993 on the movement of waste within, into and out of the European Community (OJ 1993 L30 p1).

The Court said, inter alia, that under article 3(1) of Directive 75/442 as amended, the member states are to take measures to encourage, first, the prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness, and second, the recovery of waste with a view to extracting secondary raw materials or the use of waste as a source of energy, and the system of supervision established by that directive was reinforced by Directive 91/156.

Article 2(a) of Regulation No 259/93, referring to article 1(a) of Directive 75/442 as amended, laid down a common definition of the concept of waste which was of direct application, even to shipments within any member state.

National legislation which de-

lined waste as excluding substances and objects which were capable of economic reutilisation was not compatible with the relevant Community provisions.

The system of supervision and control, including the requirement of authorisation or registration for undertakings which collected, disposed of or recovered waste on a professional basis, was intended to cover all objects and substances discarded by their owners, even if they had a commercial value and were collected on a commercial basis for recycling, reclamation or reuse.

The Court held further that a deactivation process intended merely to render waste harmless, landfill tipping in hollows and embankments, and waste incineration, constituted disposal or recovery operations falling within the scope of the Community rules, and that the fact that a substance was classified as a re-usable residue without its characteristics or purpose being defined was irrelevant in that regard, and the same applied to the grinding of a waste substance.

had the essential characteristics of VAT even if they were not identical to VAT in all respects.

The essential characteristics of VAT were that it applied generally to transactions relating to goods or services, it was proportional to the price of those goods or services, it was charged at each stage of the production and distribution process, it was imposed on the added value of goods and services, and it was borne by the final consumer.

Accordingly, in order to be characterised as a turnover tax within article 33, the tax in question had to be capable of being passed on to the consumer, but on the proper interpretation of the article and in view of its purpose, it was not necessary for the national legislation to have an express provision to that effect.

The holding or issue of an invoice was not required in all circumstances by the directive, and did not constitute an essential characteristic of turnover tax within article 33.

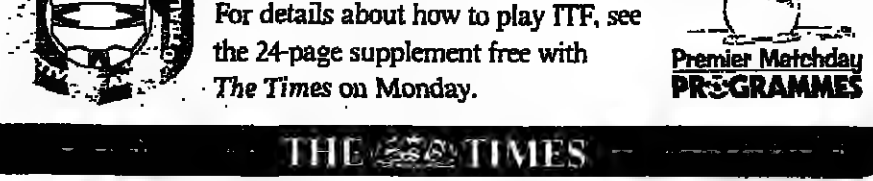
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## Summer camps ease holiday hell

Activity trips soothe a ruffled parent's feathers during the school break, says Phil Revell

MANY parents view the school summer holidays with horror, knowing that the phrases "I'm bored" and "Do we have to?" will haunt them for six weeks.

At such times, many parents must look enviously across the Atlantic, where parents pack their children off to camp and get on with their lives.

The Peanuts cartoons have educated us all about the realities of summer camp. Charlie Brown will suffer terrible angst about his inability to form relationships. Lucy will boss everyone around, and Pigpen will avoid all contact with soap and water. But how close is the cartoon to reality?

Sixteen-year-old Max Mogren, from Winona in Minnesota, has been to

catering for unaccompanied children. PGL, based in Ross-on-Wye, Hereford and Worcester, has been offering water-based activity holidays for 40 years. The founder, Peter Gordon Lawrence, organised his first trip using two canoes and a coal lorry. Since then the company has expanded into the schools market and now offers holidays across Europe. A more recent provider is Superchoice, with centres on the Isle of Wight and at Weymouth, Dorset. Superchoice offers 50 activities at camps which can accommodate up to 600 children at a time.

The 10,000 camps throughout America include many specialist venues, such as a music camp and even one for dyslexics. British parents have

Parents are keen for children to develop social skills

less choice, but there are sailing centres, drama holidays and eco-camps for the environmentally aware. The Island Cruising Club in Salcombe, Devon, offers sailing weeks for about £400 all in. Children stay in a converted Mersey ferry boat, the *Egremont*. The cost of such activity holidays is usually about £300-£400 but accommodation is often basic. Few match American camps, where children typically

stay in chalets and are supervised 24 hours a day by camp counsellors, who sleep in the same dormitory. Families can pay \$3,000-£4,000 (£1,900-£2,500) a child for summer camp, a price that reflects the staffing ratios and standards of accommodation.

Many British providers continue to use tents. Not the canvas ones that we remember from Scout camp, but the robust plastic boxes. These may be practical but hardly offer the highest standards of comfort. Staffing ratios can also vary widely. Since the Lyme Regis disaster a few years ago, when four teenagers were drowned on a canoe trip, activity providers have radically improved their approach to instruction. But some centres are saving costs by bunching children into groups which are too big.

THE British weather is the main reason why summer camps are unlikely to become as popular here as in the United States. Camps in the Midwest and on the West Coast can rely on

long, hot summers. In Britain, camps that look inviting in sunny weather become endurance events when it rains for days on end. But if the alternative is six weeks at home with frustrated children, perhaps the weather isn't so important after all.

Now that more women go out to work, childcare has also become more important. Parents are also keen to encourage children to develop social skills and become more independent, and camps offer a secure environment for young people to spread their wings. The result has been the slow growth of summer holiday centres

# Classic A-level blunders

Illiteracy and ignorance give the lie to better marks, says examiner Jim Brennan

A familiar assertion will be made later this month, when A-level results are published, that standards have not fallen. Anyone who read the examination scripts I spent the summer marking nearly 350 A-level papers in classical civilisation, from a random distribution of centres throughout England and Wales, half of them independent schools.

These candidates had spent two years on a course that encompassed Roman society in the late Republic (80 BC to AD 14), Cicero's life and works, two other authors (Virgil and Juvenal), Roman Britain and Roman art and architecture. In three hours they were required to write four short essays chosen from 25 topics.

The number of scripts I marked is a reasonably representative sample, compared with the total of about 1,200 candidates.

In a fortnight, the results will emerge. They will be much the same as last year, or possibly better. The work I saw tells a disturbing story. I was able to award a mark above 80 per cent to only one candidate, above 70 per cent to only six, and marks well below 50 per cent to the majority. More than 30 scored below ten, and there were two zeros. But these marks will be scaled up and the true picture will be concealed.

Was I needlessly demanding? Far from it: I spent a lot of time re-reading papers to find a reason for which I mark does not permit penalties for errors in spelling and punctuation. If it did, many candidates would have received a minus mark.

These candidates were in their last year of secondary education. Presumably they chose, or were encouraged to choose, this subject because they were thought to have some interest in, or aptitude for, literature and history. Their average age would be about 18. The majority of them will be saying to universities and, eventually, employers, that they have an A level in classics, which sounds quite impressive. Yet almost all those whose papers I read

are as close to illiteracy as they can be.

Hardly any of them, for instance, offered an essay that had any shape or structure. Instead there were stream-of-consciousness pieces, amounting to what-ever jumbled ideas occurred at random. Knowledge of what constitutes a sentence was rare, punctuation haphazard and spelling bizarre.

Most of these young people will next year be in some form of higher education. Yet many think that allowed is spelt aloud, that "I would of" is correct, that there is no difference between to, too and two, or between there and their: no one

apparently has ever taught them the rules about "ei" and "ie" or that nouns ending in "y", such as ally, become allies in the plural. I could go on and on; but the fact is that these were rules I had mastered when I was eight years old, not through any virtue of mine, but because trouble was taken by my teachers.

There were other worrying trends. To read the course, you would have encountered hundreds of times names such as Caesar, Pompey, Juvenal, the Senate, Agricola and so on. Yet these were routinely misspelt.

Some of the essays called for evaluation

and interpretation of information, but some did not. Sadly, a great deal of the information included was wildly inaccurate. I do not mean by an occasional candidate, but by all the candidates from a centre; thus they had all been taught inaccurately and supplied with false data on the topic.

A minor but irritating element must be the handwriting, which I often struggled with. If I could not read it, I could scarcely be expected to award marks.

So what is going on? Are standards falling? Of course, they are: but there are good reasons for it.

Principally, it is a factor of the absurd expansion in post-secondary education of the past 20 years. The population has not increased noticeably, yet more children are staying on after the school-leaving age and attempting A levels, and then going on to still further education.

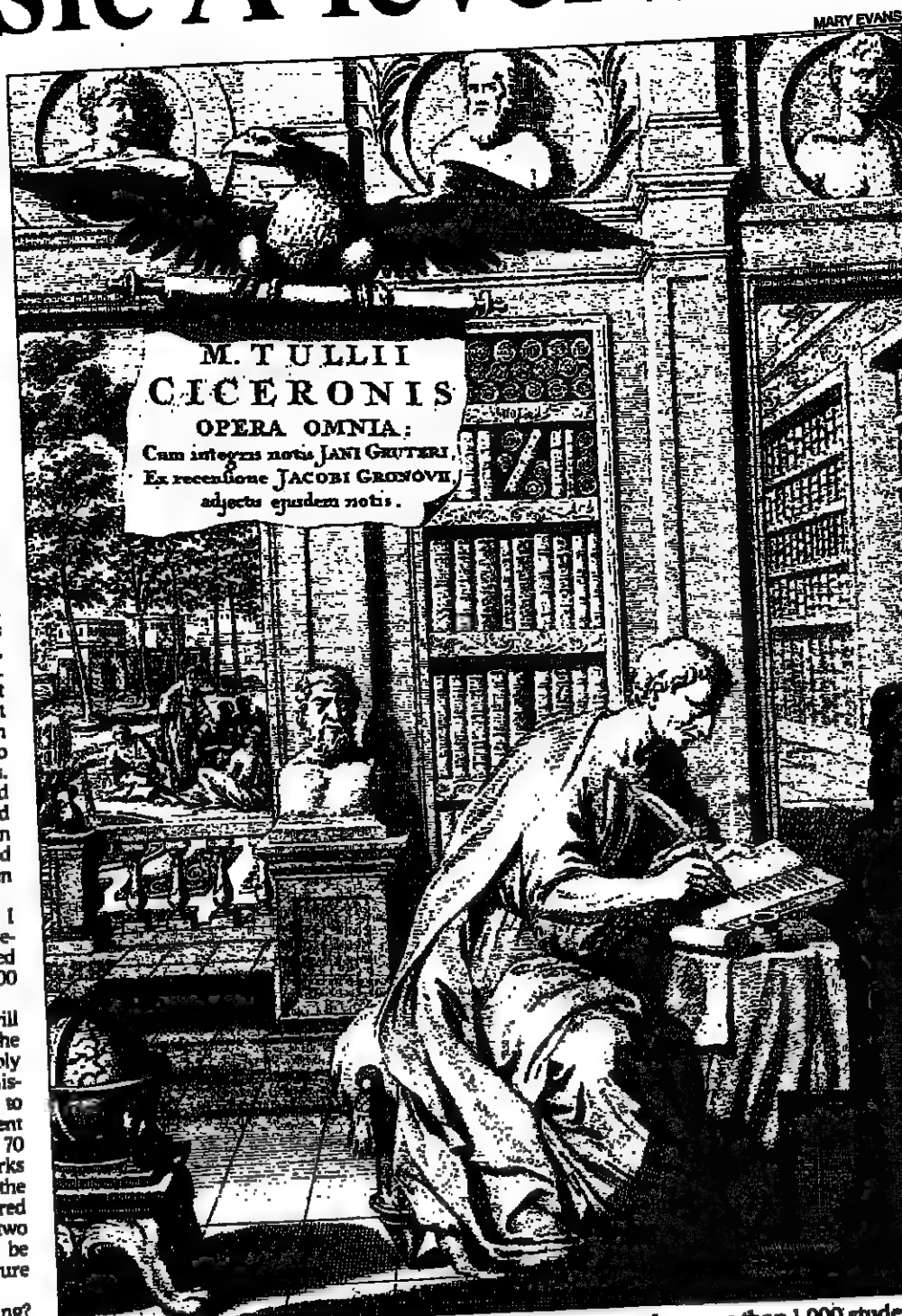
There is, naturally, less time available in the school timetable for each subject, as other, new ones, have proliferated. Syllabuses have had to be whittled down. But there is a great difference between whittling and diluting. For instance, in neither Latin or Greek at A level is it now obligatory to translate into the language; that is dilution. Nor does one read so many set texts; that is whittling.

Having held two headmasterships, as well as in my earlier career run a large classics department and, since retirement, taught in a flourishing department in an independent school, I am in a position to suggest at least some of the causes of what is happening.

For certain, many new graduates are insufficiently taught and, in my subject, have read far less of the literature and know less of the history than I did when I graduated. That is curable; they can get down to repairing the gaps.

The real solution lies with the teachers and the question of how much time they are prepared to give to correcting their pupils' essays. I always found that if I marked meticulously, discussed the mistakes in class and poured scorn and sarcasm on elementary spelling and grammatical blunders, they disappeared. Equally, statements had to be accurate and, if not, had to be corrected and re-submitted; and opinions had to be supported by quoted evidence.

Not only did this result in years of success in examinations, but, more important, it was very good training for the day when facts and evaluation were essential in their career.



Cicero's life and works: part of a two-year A-level course for more than 1,000 students

Sue Fox reports on an annual summer school that is hitting a high note

## A gift from the heart for music lovers

Through their powerful Music for Everyone programme, The Avison Charitable Trust, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, has established an annual summer school which is unlike any masterclass situation anywhere in the world.

Students, teachers, eminent professional musicians and children come together to experience a musical journey with Benjamin Zander, the English-born conductor of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, professor at the New England Conservatory and visiting professor at the Royal College of Music in London.

He says: "Education is about moving obstacles. 'I have a question' is the best possible state of mind for a human being." In Newcastle, there are lots of questions.

The journey with Professor Zander may change lives, but there are no auditions and no fees. "This is not a performance course," he says. "We take the first 35 students who sign up."

Students include a 15-year-old who has been learning the clarinet for 18 months, a primary-school music teacher, a professor of music from Eastern Europe who is living in the North East, the lead violinist of one of the finest chamber groups in Europe, a jazz trumpeter and two singers.

One young soprano is having a difficult time at college because her teachers keep putting her down. The other singer is a professional viola player, with a beautiful mezzo voice who has always wanted to sing.

Gordon Dixon runs the trust and is managing director of the Avison Baroque Ensemble—the first period orchestra in the North.

The trust and ensemble are named after Charles Avison, a distinguished 18th-century English musician who spent his life in Newcastle, establishing the town as one of the most prominent music centres in the country.

The summer school, now in its eighth year, was started by Mr Dixon, whose life was changed ten years ago when he attended one of Professor Zander's masterclasses in London.

"Ben made a promise that anyone who stayed for all 26 hours of classes would make a breakthrough in their music-



Leading students on a musical journey: Professor Zander

making," he says. "I stayed, and it did make a huge difference. Later, I worked with Ben in Boston and started taking over some of my musician friends. Eventually, it seemed to make more sense for me to find a way to bring Ben to Newcastle."

Mr Dixon, 38, and viola player Colin Start, 40, who also promotes access to music through community projects in schools and for special needs groups in the region, grew up in an education system in which free music lessons and instruments were

available free of charge.

"We come from backgrounds where learning to play an instrument would not have been possible without that help," he says. "Now, funding for music education has been so drastically cut, we have to find a structure for young people to see what music can bring to their lives. When I take musicians into schools, they don't pretend to be teachers. That's not what it's about. They are musicians who discover beautiful ways of encouraging children to think about sounds, timbre, images and colour."

Mr Start believes that the dire situation of music in most British schools will lead to a shortage of good music teachers and musicians for orchestras. He and Mr Dixon are clear about the trust's work. Mr Start says: "Some local organisations have moved into 'education' because it attracts funding, but 'education' was our starting point. It is the heart of what we do."

During his time in Newcastle last year, the charismatic Professor Zander, about whom the BBC is filming a major arts documentary, was asked by Mr Dixon to address 16-year-olds at Blakelaw Secondary—one of the named failing schools in the area.

"Afterwards, we gave them tickets for a concert of the Brahms Double Concerto with the Newcastle Philharmonic which Ben was conducting."

"None of them had ever been to a performance of classical music before, but they had such a good time, they also came to the next series of concerts we did with the ensemble."

When Mr Start takes musicians into schools, he often finds that the biggest troublemaker in a class is lit up by the power of music.

Professor Zander says: "When I teach and when I conduct, I talk to the passion in that person. Music is a gift we take with us throughout our lives. It is a gift to give away to the person who is listening. You don't play an instrument with your hands; you play with your heart."

Avison Charitable Trust Music for Everyone education programme: contact Gordon Dixon, Louise Swann or Colin Start on 0191-226 0709.

10p

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**EDINBURGH HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY**





Double Trigger, ridden by Roberts, stays on gallantly to deny Classic Cliche and Double Eclipse in a thrilling finish to the Goodwood Cup yesterday

## Double Trigger rekindles enthusiasm

BY RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a morning of showers and slate grey skies which wiped away the glorious from Goodwood, Double Trigger and Double Eclipse yesterday picked the perfect moment to disprove the old saying that lightning never strikes in the same place twice.

It was two years ago that the Mark Johnston-trained equine brothers locked horns in one of the most memorable runnings of the Goodwood Cup since it was first staged in 1812. As Trigger just prevailed over the younger Eclipse after an epic duel up the straight, the cheers carried across the English Channel and racing sages muttered that we would never see the like of it again. Well, yesterday we did — against all the odds.

In the intervening period, Double

Eclipse has suffered the kind of setbacks which would have ended the career of most horses. He effectively races on three legs nowadays and has not had a proper workout on the Middleham gallops for 14 months. Meanwhile, at the age of six, Double Trigger's mind tends to be on the opposite sex rather than running quickly — with inevitable consequences. He has lost more supporters than the Conservative Party this year — and started at 16-1 yesterday.

The final insult for Trigger came when Jason Weaver, on board for most of his 11 victories, deserted him in favour of his younger brother. When the stalls opened yesterday, Michael Roberts, who has taken over in the saddle, did not need long to find out why.

After being kicked into an early lead, Double Trigger soon made it plain he would rather pull himself up. Time and again Roberts had to

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: AMYAS  
(2.45 Goodwood)  
Next best: Bright Water  
(3.30 Goodwood)

niggle, cajole and bully his mount into concentrating on matters in hand. As the field bunched up behind the leader, it seemed only a question of when he would be overtaken.

When the challenge finally arrived, it was delivered initially by his brother, Roberts made one more demand on his horse and, somewhat to the surprise of the South African rider, Double Trigger responded and remembered how to win. For a few moments, it looked as though Double Eclipse would again claim the runner-up spot. In the end Classic Cliche, the 5-4 favourite who had

been last at the top of the hill, spoilt the party by grabbing second place — but it mattered little as the crowd cheered the winner and Johnston to the echo.

"That was fantastic," Johnston said. "I have said for some time that Double Trigger has the class and should not be written off after three bad runs. It doesn't mean that he's thrown in the towel. Remember he is a six-year-old entire horse — they think about other things."

Henry Cecil will have every right to think about other things this morning — such as winning the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket next May — after a deeply impressive performance by Daggers Drawn, who provided the ten-times champion with his first success in the Salomon Brothers Richmond Stakes.

Confronted by a wall of horses in front of him approaching the final furlong, it appeared for a few

moments as though Kieren Fallon would be thwarted on the heavily backed favourite. A gap then appeared and the Diesis colt displayed classic acceleration to burst between Lord Kintyre and Linden Heights and win handsomely.

Cecil reeled off a list of future big-race engagements. Suffice to say, the colt, bred and owned by Cliveden Stud, is in everything but the Boat Race — and looks a worthy 7-1 favourite for the 2,000 Guineas.

Earlier, John Reid had produced the riding performance of the week to win the Oak Tree Stakes on Dazzle. Having decided the best tactics were to wait, wait and wait again, Reid finally unleashed the Gone West filly inside the final furlong to score a shade comfortably. Michael Scoute unfortunately left it until after the race to announce: "We had her in tip top shape today and I was very confident she would win."

## Dettori switch to pay dividends on Great Child

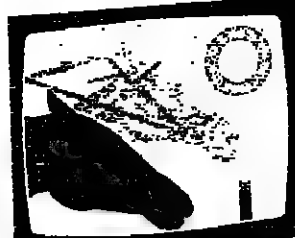
GOODWOOD  
BBC2

2.15: Shaheen, disappointing at Royal Ascot last time, showed solid form in mile maidens during the spring, before dropping to this trip to get off the mark in decisive fashion at Kempton. That race has worked out well — the third, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth have all won — but he has to be opposed with the worst draw in the race.

Frankie Dettori switches from Jorjacks to the Michael Scoute-trained Great Child, freshened up by a break since his unlucky run at Epsom. The better ground suits, and he acts on a sharp track (has won at Chester). Jawhari is unexposed, but Fun Galore's status as an intriguing alternative — he got bogged down in the mud last time, after shaping with promise on his reappearance — would be diminished by more rain.

2.45: Labeq's impressive reappearance win came in a soft maiden, and he meets a different calibre of animal here, notably Amyas — unlucky not to win on his first attempt at this trip in a competitive, strongly-run race at Newmarket. Patriot Games is another unfortunate not to have won his latest start, likewise hampered at a crucial stage. More rain would place a question mark over Southern Wind, who flagged in soft ground at Royal Ascot, but there is no doubt that he was subsequently ill served by the slow pace in the Magnet Cup.

By contrast, the better ground should bring out the best in Lord Eurolink, who could have been ridden more positively last time and may have been laid out for this. At the bottom of the handicap, obvious concerns about Sword Arms, tried over a longer distance and running on easier ground, should be discounted; his trainer, Rog-



TODAY'S RACING ON TELEVISION

er Charlton, is not the sort to gamble blindly.

3.20: Bright Water is the subject of excellent reports, and certainly impressed on his Chester reappearance. A brother to Tenby, he should stay the extra two furlongs well, and his tail-swishing has not yet revealed anything sinister. All told, however, he may go off at a false price, giving 13lb to Humorous, who got jarred up last year and will relish the better ground today. He was unsuited by the slow early pace at York last time, and his trainer excels at this meeting — as does that of the inconsistent Medaille Militaire, who ran well over course and distance on his reappearance.

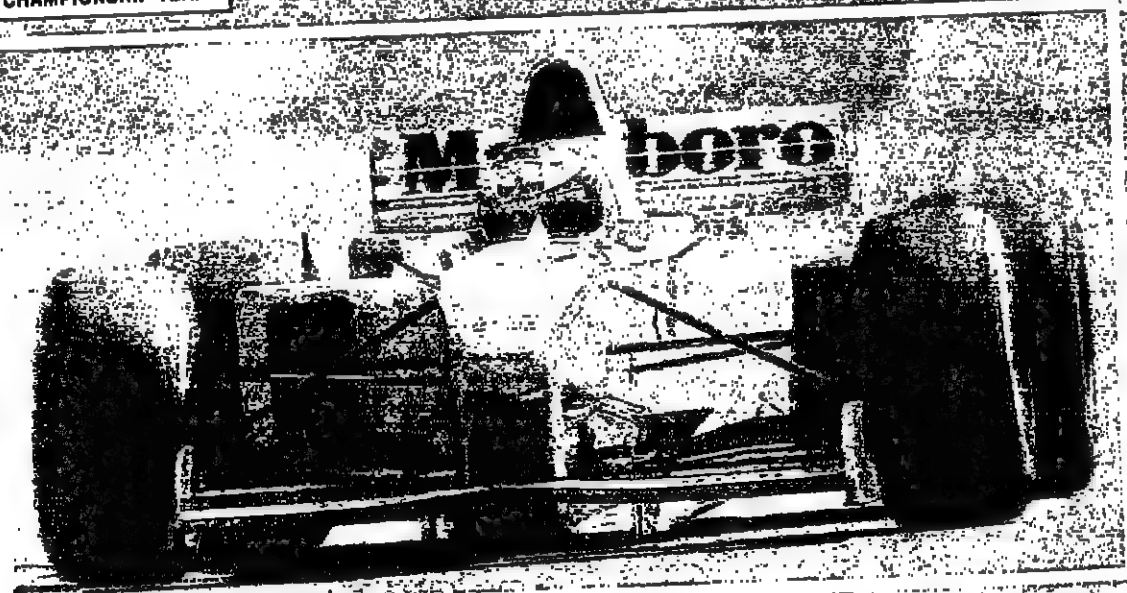
3.50: Lady Alexander exploited the air of nervous that surrounds the hyped King Of Kings at the Curragh, bravely winning in a photo-finish as the runner-up was given an easy time. But she endured a hard race and drops back to the minimum, on a very sharp course, and preference is for Princess Natalie. David Barron, not the sort to get carried away by a horse, significantly started her off in a Doncaster conditions race, rather than a maiden — and she became the only horse to beat Desert Lady in her first three starts. Easy ground will help her cause, which may not be the case for the speedy types. It's All Relative and Mugello.

CHRIS MCGRATH

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### HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED AT HOCKENHEIM

Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole G Berger 30 points; 2 G Fisichella 25; 3 M Hakkinen 24; 4 M Schumacher 23; 5 H-H Frenzen 22; 6 J Alesi 21; 7 R Schumacher 20; 8 D Coulthard 19; 9 J Villeneuve 18; 10 E Irvine 17; 11 J Trulli 16; 12 R Barrichello 15; 13 D Hill 14; 14 J Herbert 13; 15 J Magnussen 12; 16 P Diniz 11; 17 S Nakano 10; 18 N Fontana 9; 19 M Salo 8; 20 J Verstappen 7. Finishing points (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st G Berger 60 points; 2nd M Schumacher 50; 3rd M Hakkinen 40; 4th J Trulli 30; 5th R Schumacher 29; 6th J Alesi 28; 7th S Nakano 27; 8th D Hill 26; 9th N Fontana 25; 10th J Verstappen 24; 11th G Fisichella 23. (Only 10 finished. G Fisichella was classified although he did not finish the race.) Lap points (one point for each lap completed): G Berger 45 points; M Schumacher 45; M Hakkinen 45; J Trulli 45; R Schumacher 45; J Alesi 44; G Fisichella 44; D Hill 44; N Fontana 44; J Verstappen 44; J Villeneuve 33; R Barrichello 33; M Salo 33; J Magnussen 27; U Katayama 23; J Herbert 8; P Diniz 8; E Irvine 1; D Coulthard 1; H-H Frenzen 1. Improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for

each improved place): J Verstappen 30 points; S Nakano 30; N Fontana 27; J Trulli 21; D Hill 15; M Schumacher 6; R Schumacher 6. Fastest lap time of grand prix: G Berger 10 points. Penalty points. Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted): J Villeneuve -10 points; E Irvine -10; D Coulthard -10; R Barrichello -10; H-H Frenzen -10; J Herbert -10; M Salo -10; U Katayama -10; P Diniz -10; G Fisichella -10; J Magnussen -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): T Marques -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none. CONSTRUCTORS Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Benetton 30 points; Ferrari 25; McLaren 24; Prost 23; Jordan 22; Arrows 19; Sauber 18; Tyrrell 17. Penalty points incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Williams -20 points; Stewart -20; Ferrari -10; McLaren -10; Jordan -10; Arrows -10; Sauber -10; Tyrrell -10; Minardi -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): Minardi -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

The top of our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard in the race for our £25,000 top prize is headed by L Ackland from Guildford, Surrey. His team, Aston O, has a total of 7,333 points after scoring 568 points in last week's German Grand Prix at Hockenheim. His team comprised M Schumacher, Alesi, Irvine, Trulli, Fisichella, Fontana, Benetton, McLaren, Ferrari, Sauber, Minardi and Lola. T Murphy of Altrincham, Cheshire, wins a trip for two to the Belgian Grand Prix. His team, Tel Stars, has 6,263 points in the competition. He scored 778 points at Hockenheim with Hakkinen, Berger, M Schumacher, Trulli, R Schumacher, Fontana, McLaren, Ferrari, Benetton, Sauber, Arrows and Tyrrell. M Collins from Royston, Herts, has 5,822 points overall and wins a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game. His team, Scuderia Scommessa, scored 772 points last Sunday.

TO ENTER make three selections from each of the four groups below and call 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the Belgian Grand Prix and other grands prix where bonus points apply. TRANSFERS Change up to four selections before the Hungarian Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday, August 7. CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK). CLARIFICATION: Rule 2 applies to the transfers and replacements on the table below. The cumulative figure for Prost published after the Canadian Grand Prix has been adjusted downwards by 10 points as his car did not finish in that race. All entrants' scores are correct.

### OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE GERMAN GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Aston O	L Ackland	7333
2	Dragon Racing	R Davis	7211
3	Gwilt F1	D Gwilt	7199
4	Coolsport	D Coolican	7185
5	The Tigglers	Mr R	7117
6	Cathy's Clowns	Mrs C Robinson	7117
7	Bezzotti Racing	A Scott	7117
8	F1 Erb	S Erhorn	7117
9	Smith-Astra	D Smith	7088
10	Formula Uno	P Tabone	7076
11	Sour Mash	R Owers	7071
12	Will And Nerve	A Mewes	7067
13	Cartell Racing	S Dimetto	7067
14	Becks Racing Team	M Kingdon	7038
15	Parkhurst Racing	L Danson	7038
16	Scuderia Vincitore	S Lorenti	7031
17	Midnight Rovers	C Newman	7022
18	Cyclops	R Bohee	7022
19	Goldfinch	S Goldfinch	7013
20	Freaks	F Retkovsky	7011
21	What Alesi Bunch!	N Rowe	7004
22	Scuderia Vitulli	Mr Vitulli	6985
23	Salanco	Ms S Dankevics	6985
24	Chris-Williams	C Quagliero	6975
25	Laura's-Rob	J Smith	6974

### MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the German GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS			
GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 D Hill	99 598	13 J Trulli	112 1110
02 M Schumacher	124 1197	14 J Verstappen	105 713
03 J Villeneuve	41 929	15 U Katayama	13 527
04 E Irvine	8 866	16 P Diniz	9 478
05 J Alesi	94 1091	17 R Rosset	0 0
06 G Berger	145 798	18 R Schumacher	100 863
07 M Hakkinen	109 845	19 G Fisichella	75 947
08 D Coulthard	10 798	20 S Nakano	112 689
09 R Barrichello	38 496	21 N Fontana	105 931
10 H-H Frenzen	13 848	22 T Marques	-10 599
11 J Herbert	11 751	23 J Magnussen	29 510
12 M Salo	31 769	24 V Sosipol	0 0
CONSTRUCTORS			
GROUP C		GROUP D	
25 Williams	-20 107	31 Arrows	9 -49
26 Ferrari	15 175	32 Sauber	8 56
27 McLaren	14 114	33 Tyrrell	7 -4
28 Benetton	30 185	34 Minardi	-20 19
29 Jordan	12 94	35 S Stewart	-20 -99
30 Prost	23 113	36 Lola	0 0

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هكذا من الأصل















# Betrayal of the true sporting spirit

The so-called guardians of international athletics, who voted yesterday, on the eve of the world championships in Athens, to soften the resolve of sport against the abuse of drugs, have betrayed two generations.

First and foremost, there is the coming generation of competitors, those children coming into the care of athletics, for whom the message is abhorrently plain: cheat if you can, take illegal substances where you will, and the worst that the godfathers of your sport have in store for you is a couple of seasons in the sin bin.

At the other extreme, there is the betrayal of Sir Arthur Gold, now an elderly gentleman, but at one time an administrator with more courage and more sense of propriety than many of today's rulers put together.

In his time in charge of British athletics, Sir Arthur took enormous pains, and accepted torrents of derision, for his insistence that even if Britain had to go it alone, those responsible for the good of the sport and its future had

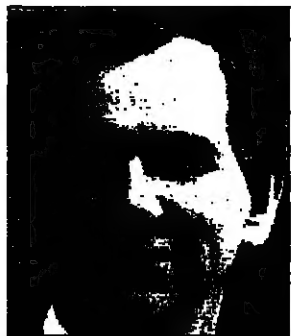
to declare this country — unilaterally, if necessary — utterly and totally against doping.

Sir Arthur won his persuasive argument in this country at least. It is a small relief to note that when the acquiescence came yesterday, Britain, as well as Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Norway and some Caribbean countries swelled the vote against ameliorating the punishment for drug abuse.

Still they lost; swayed by Dr Primo Nebiolo, the president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), whose leadership took, as usual, the form of expediency over decency, 112 members voted in favour of halving the four-year ban for drug-takers. Fifty-six voted against, three abstained.

So now many will go into the heat and humidity of Athens lost for hope. Aware that athletics remains at the very core of the Olympic ideal, we must still search these world games over the next nine days — games held in the very cradle of the ethos that spoke of "sound mind in a sound body" — desperately

ROB HUGHES



Chief Sports Writer

willing to see it as something more than a sham.

It gets tougher with every passing year. Even Ben Johnson, found guilty of drug abuse at the Seoul Olympics nine years ago, is contemplating court action to win back his place on the track. That was the excuse for a reduction put forward by some who voted yesterday. They claim that because civil courts in Germany have adjudged that

a four-year ban on someone whose body has been proven conclusively to be riddled with substances that enable him to cheat constitutes a restraint of trade.

I use the word excuse because those gentlemen of the committee could just as easily acknowledge that, also in Germany, there are broken athletes, men and women who were the children of the corrupt East German sporting regime, who are preparing court cases against the doctors and coaches who administered the drugs to them.

Where, on earth, are we going? Stripped of this trend towards leniency, Nebiolo's credo is one of greed for his sport. He promotes these world championships on faster and faster cycles. He smiles and greets the Greeks, whose ancestors framed the original ethic of sport, an ethic we must surely not surrender as a myth, and acknowledges that Athens is desperate to reclaim the Olympic Games, to bring the flame home. And Nebiolo, bare-faced, will tout to stage the Olympic Games in 2004, not in Athens, but in Rome. Nebiolo is as bogus as some

of those athletes he would welcome back to the arena; back, nowadays, to monetary prizes that, like drugs were never part of the Olympic or the athletic dream. But this Latin ruler, together with those Lords of the Rings, Juan Antonio Samaranch and João Havelange, promoters of the golden triangle of sport-television-money, should not be made the only scapegoats of the era in which ideology became poisoned.

For if there are corruptors at work, it is the duty of others, those — like Nebiolo — seen fit to govern their sport, to oppose them, to say "no".

It is not only Sir Arthur Gold who is being cheated. It is not merely that drugs are the cheat's substance. It is that these pills, these injections, and these stimulants, given by corrupt chemists who know the repercussions, actually damage the human body, not enhance it. It is high time we found men and women of courage — starting with all the clean athletes — to stand against the warping of the meaning of sport.

## David Powell on a Briton timing his run towards sprint glory

# Chambers keen to avoid false start

Britain's latest sprint sensation entered a different world here in Athens on Wednesday evening from the one he had left behind on Monday. "I was like a king out there," Dwain Chambers said with reference to Ljubljana and how the Slovenians had responded to witnessing his piece of athletics history. Now he was having to sample life as a courier.

Within a week of becoming the fastest teenager of all time, winning the 100 metres at the European junior championships, Chambers flew in to join the Great Britain squad for the senior world championships. The world junior record of 10.06sec places a

substantial burden on 19-year-old shoulders.

Chambers offers a bemused look when he listens to a random list of names of athletes who were slower at his age: Carl Lewis, Linford Christie, Donovan Bailey and — dare one say? — Ben Johnson. Already he is faster than Allan Wells, the 1980 Olympic champion, and every other Briton who has run the distance, except Christie.

A Londoner born of Jamaican parents, Chambers did not make the team here for the 100 metres, only for the relay. The frustration that he felt when the team was announced, a week before he went to Ljubljana, has given way to a reluctant admission that it is probably for the best.

This is education time. "I have only ever seen the Donovan Baileys and Michael Johnsons on television,"

those emotions again, for the worse if they sadden him during the difficult transition from junior to senior ranks. All too often, promising young British athletes have failed to leap the chasm, unable to take the unusual feeling of defeat.

The first step towards a successful transition is for the athlete to recognise that he needs to go through the humbling process. Chambers, though still exuberant about his Ljubljana experience, was keen to impress that he was taking nothing for granted.

"People are going to expect big things from me, but I am going to take it year by year," Chambers said. "I do not want to put pressure on myself by saying that, just because I have run 10.06, next year I

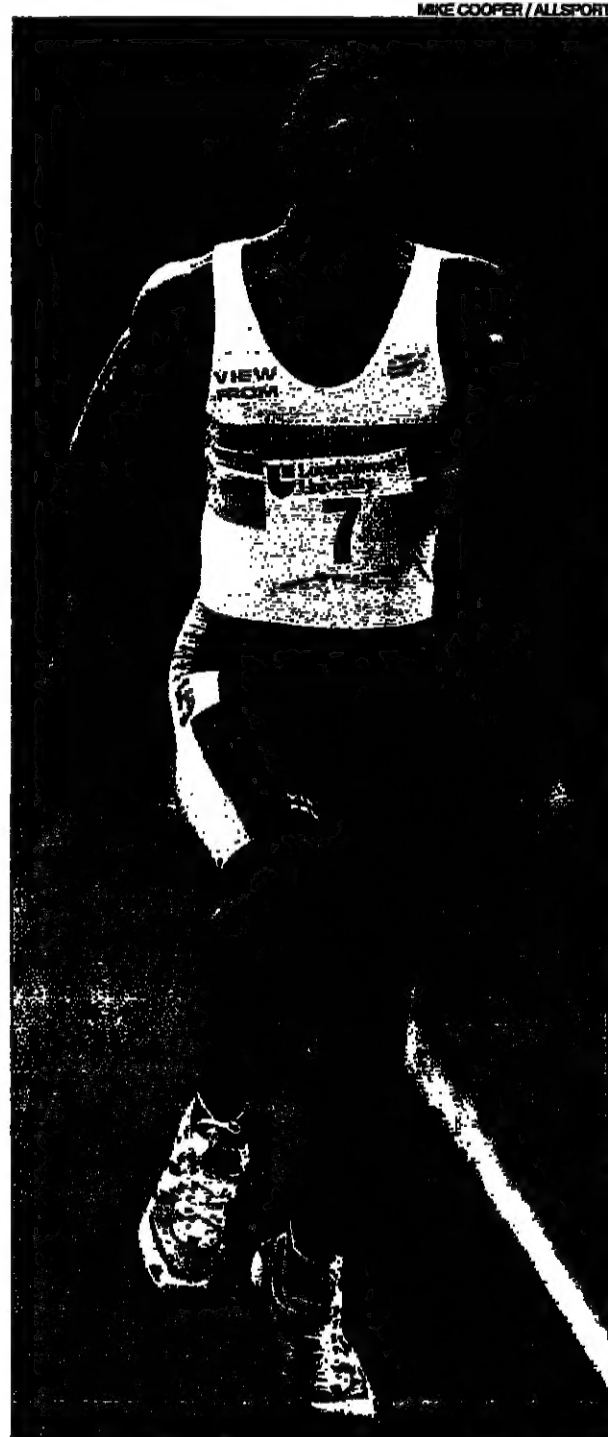
should run under ten. I may not run that time again for the next two or three years."

Ian Mackie, who has succeeded Christie as British champion and whose best is 10.7sec, drew attention to Chambers' journey in Ljubljana the benefit of the maximum legal tail wind. "I would have loved those conditions myself," Mackie said. "The first thing I thought was 9.9."

Implicit in Mackie's comment was that he would still expect to beat Chambers and, with maximum legal wind assistance, break ten seconds. "He is very talented, very strong, and I think he will do extremely well," Mackie added. "But people now are going to be looking at him to run 10.1 consistently. There is that kind of pressure on him."

Chambers is 5ft 11in and 13st and Malcolm Arnold, Britain's performance director, described him as "physically precocious". He had, Arnold said, "thrown a hand grenade in among our sprinters". Makes a change from throwing tantrums and spikes, which he did at the world junior championships last year. Expecting a medal, he finished fifth.

"I think my spikes might have hit somebody," Chambers recalled. "The team management tried to talk to me, but I ignored them. That was the turning-point in my career." It was not that he lost, but that he eased up. There must be no more easing up if Chambers is to make the impression as a senior that he has as a junior.



Chambers will mix with the world's finest in Athens

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

### MOHOHOHO

(a) The white rhinoceros, *Ceratotherium simus*, found in central Africa and Zululand. The Sesotho word for the magnificent beast.

### NOIX

(b) Literally a nut, but in cookery that part of the fillet of veal to which the fat or udder is attached. The French for a nut. "The noix de veau is the topside (rump), the fleshy upper part of the leg, cut lengthwise."

### LEVADA

(c) In Madeira, a canal for irrigation. The Portuguese word. "Levedas are narrow canals cut out of the solid rock of volcanic basalt of which the island consists: watercourses of masonry, which intersect Madeira like a network, for the purposes of irrigation."

### HARTINE

(d) In P. Ehrlich's theory of immunisation, a receptor detached from the parent-cell, circulating freely in the bloodstream, and acting as a protection against infection by combining with the foreign substance which would produce it. From the Greek *haptein* to fasten.

## SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Nxc3 2 Rxf3 3 Rb6+! gxf4 4 Qxf4 checkmate

## EQUESTRIANISM

# King in pursuit of triple triumph

MARY KING, who last year became the first rider to fill the leading two places in the British Horse Trials Championships, has a chance to go one better at the event when she competes with three other horses (Jenny MacArthur writes). The champion, sponsored by Doubleprint and organised by Captain Mark Phillips, begins today at Gatcombe Park.

In contrast to last year, when there was a depleted field because of the proximity to the Olympic Games, there is a bumper entry, with 245 contenders divided among the

four classes — two advanced sections, the British intermediate championships and the British Open.

Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, with his Olympic champion, Ready Teddy, heads the foreign entry, which also includes two former winners of the Open: Mark Todd, a dual Olympic champion, with Stunning and Word for Word, and David O'Connor, of the United States, the winner of Badminton this year, who rides Lightfoot.

However, King, seeking a fourth win, is the rider they all have to beat. She rides King

William and King Solomon — who were first and second last year — and Star Appeal, her Badminton runner-up and a leading contender for the team for the European championships next month.

King Solomon and King William won at Saumur and Chantilly this year. All three horses underlined their form with double clear rounds at Cornbury last week. King, 36, has an added incentive. Her win in June at Chantilly — Gatcombe's twin event in France — will bring her a £2,000 bonus should she succeed at Gatcombe.

## Music for anniversaries

BBC Proms 97

BBC2, 6.55pm

The second Prom to be televised live from the Albert Hall features the composers whose anniversaries have made their works more than usually popular this year. Brahms died 100 years ago, while Schubert was born in 1797. The concert represents both through choral works, Brahms with the energetic *Song of the Rites* and Schubert with the more placid *Mass in A Flat Major*. Sandwiched between them is a performance of the Chopin Piano Concerto No 2 by the French pianist, Jean-Yves Thibaudet. The BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus is conducted by the orchestra's principal guest conductor, Jiri Bohdalek. An interval feature charts the last six years of Schubert's life, from the composition of the *Mass* to his dreadfully early death at the age of 31.

Rab C. Nesbitt

BBC2, 9.30pm

Glasgow used to have shipyards which provided work but there are no proper jobs left. The middle-aged face, the humiliation of dressing up to promote a burger chain and the young turn to crime. Such is the theme of tonight's episode as the adventures of Gregor Fisher's Rab move into a sixth series. He is the one in the burger suit, while his son and nephew go out and steal. There is many an uncomfortable truth expressed in comedy and Rab is at the heart of a credible world. Too much should not be made of this. Ian Paterson's scripts are first and foremost designed to amuse and Rab's philosophising (assuming we Sassenachs can understand him) is hardly in the Bertrand Russell class. But behind the gags and the surreal exchanges ("scuba diving? do you, catch any scuba?") there is a social edge.

Room 101

BBC2, 10.00pm

Getting celebrities to consign their pet hates to an imaginary dustbin may seem a limited concept, though it has already stretched to two series and now comes the third. But the formula is canny rather than it looks. There is much fun to be had from killing sacred cows, a blood sport that deserves to survive. Take *Last of the Summer Wine*. Until now



Rab advertises fast food (BBC2, 9.30pm)

it has been hard to find a bad word uttered against this much-loved sitcom. Enter Jeremy Clarkson, whose wit can be as sharp as his driving, to denounce the show as a sleep-inducing bore whose elderly characters should be put in a home. The host, Nick Hancock, is quick to agree, even if, as usual, his supposedly spontaneous quips have the air of being carefully rehearsed. The Clarkson bile is also directed at caravan holidays, golfers and vegetarianism, all of which are demolished in trenchant style.

King of the Hill

Channel 4, 10.30pm

If the latest American cartoon family to reach our screens has some affinity with the awful Simpsons, this may be because Greg Daniels, who helped to create it, once wrote *The Simpsons*. If there are echoes of *Beavis and Butt-Head*, not least the voice of Mike Judge, this is because Judge was behind both shows. The "King" of the Hill family is dad Hank, who sells propane in a Texas town. He has a plain wife, a truculent 12-year-old son called Bobby and three beer-drinking chums with whom he escapes the tensions of family life. If not exactly dysfunctional, the Hills have very short fuses and father-son flare-ups are frequent. These spark tonight's plot in which a callow social worker tries to take Bobby into care. Deadpan humour, and swipes at political correctness, set the tone for a funny and refreshing show. Peter Waymark

## RADIO CHOICE

Mixing the Archive

Radio 3, 4.00pm

I don't know whether Radio 3 planners thought that, by devoting today's *Mixing the Archive* to Gilbert and Sullivan they were offering an *hors d'oeuvre* to stimulate our taste buds for tomorrow night's *Prom* relay of *The Gondoliers*. That anyway is the effect *Mixing the Archive* will have on my gastric juices — and yours, too, I suspect. All the items today are gems from the BBC's Aladdin's Cave of recorded treasures. They include excerpts from *Princess Ida*, an opera that has been shamelessly neglected since the 1930s, always loved at heart in Gilbert and Sullivan, sing the title role. We also hear some unusual orchestral arrangements of other Savoy Opera successes by Malcolm Sargent and Hely Hutchinson.

## RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 8.00 Mark Goodier 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow. Live from Great Yarmouth 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Jo Whitey 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Sun 12.00am Radio 1 Rep Show with Tim Westwood 3.00am Charlie Jordan

## RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Angela Ripston 1.05 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Gotta Sing Gotta Dance 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.15 The Tailor of Panama. See Choice (1/10) 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 Sheridan Morley

## RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00 Race on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Friday Sport with John Murray. Including coverage of the world club championship rugby league game from the Stoop between London Broncos and Canterbury 10.00 Paper Talk 11.00 News Extra with David McNeil 12.00 After Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Richard Dufin

## TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Watt 7.00 Paul Rose 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Dave Sims, with Peter Dinkley 7.00 Mox Dee's Spontaneous 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Ian Collins

The Tailor of Panama

Radio 2, 9.15pm

The recent booming sales of talking books tend to reinforce what the acclaimed thriller-writer John le Carré says in the current issue of *Radio Times*: "I am very aware that a lot of people don't read and prefer the spoken word to the written." Tonight, he gives us the chance to decide for ourselves whether his latest book, *The Tailor of Panama*, makes even better reading when the author himself is the reader. It all hinges, of course, on whether the reader can do justice to the writer. Will we listen to *The Tailor of Panama* simply because John le Carré is the voice we hear? This first instalment suggests that he is a competent reader, no more than that. On this evidence vocal characterisation is not his forte. Peter Daville

## WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 World Today 7.30 Voting for Britain 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Music Review 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Performance 9.30 John Peel 10.05 Business 10.15 Learning World 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Sport 12.00am Outlook 12.30am Focus on Faith 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Body of Knowledge 1.45 Sport 2.00 Newsday 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack 4.05 Football 4.15 Code Breakers 5.05 News in German 5.30 Europe Today 5.35 Business 5.45 Britain Today 6.15 World Today 6.30 News in German 6.40 Spotlight 6.45 Sport 7.30 Focus on Faith 8.05 Proms 97 8.00 Newsday 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 People and Politics 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sport 12.00am Outlook 12.30 Multitrack 1.30 From the Weeklies 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Code Breakers 2.45 The Insider's Guide 2.55 Spotlight 3.30 People and Politics 4.05 Business 4.15 Sport 4.30 Weekend 4.45 Off the Shelf 5.05 Outlook 5.45 Music Brief

## CLASSIC FM

3.00am Sally Peterson 5.00 Alan Munn 5.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Users' Requests 2.00 Concerto 3.00 Jamie Cull 7.00 Newsday 7.30 Sonoma. Vivaldi (Concerto No 4 in G minor, Lully) 8.00 Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 4); Beethoven (Piano No 7 in B flat, The Archduke, Op 97), Schubert (Piano 29) 10.00 Michael Nyman 2.00am

## VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horse 7.00 Paul Coyte (FM) 1.00pm Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Howard Pearce

## RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Brahms (Three Intermezzi, Op 117); Handel (Die Cenerentola, HWV22); Händel (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Op 11); Mozart (Violin Sonata in F, K377); Schubert (Die Forelle); Copland (Rodeo: Four Dances Episodes) 9.00 Evening Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Debussy (Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune); Bach (Cello Suite No 1 in G, BWV1007); Nielsen (Sinfonia: Aladdin) 10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris de Souza. Includes Runewick (Mein kleiner Gruner Kaktus); Haydn (Symphony No 68 in E flat); Takemitsu (Handmade Proverbs); Schubert (Symphony No 3 in D); Brahms (Piano Trio in D minor); Dvorak (Larghetto); Hindemith (Piano Sonata No 3); Sessions (Concerto for Orchestra) 12.00 Proms Concerts of the Week: Honegger 1.00pm News; St David's Hall Lunchtime Festival. Nicola Haywood Thomas presents the third of six recitals from Cardiff, given last March. Gemini, under Ian Mitchell, Guest (Christine Quirret in C minor, Op 4); Hilary Tann (From the Song of the American for flute, viola and harp); Rebecca Clarke (Prelude, Allegro and Pastorale for clarinet and harp); Mendelssohn (Introduction and Allegro for harp, flute, clarinet and string quartet) 2.00 BBC Proms 97. Waltraud Meier, mezzo, Anthony Rolfe Johnson, tenor, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Mark Wigglesworth. Beethoven (Symphony No 6 in F, Pastoral); Mahler (Das Lied von der Erde) (1) 4.00 Proms Concerts of the Week: Choice 5.00 Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson. Includes a look at why composers feel they have to make up words to fit their songs (1) 5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.55 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley's castaway is the American actor and comedian Gene Wilder (1) 9.45 Redoubtable Russia. In the second of a four-part series, the BBC's Moscow correspondent, Angus Roxburgh, takes a look at crime, corruption and the Mafia in post-Communist Russia 10.00 News: Here Comes the Boss. In the series that looks at what makes a good employer, Patrick Wright reports on a bearings manufacturer where they introduced radical experiments to bridge the gap between boss and workers 10.00 An Act of Worship (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour (FM), with Gail Foley 11.30 The National History Programme. Presented by Joanna Flinck 12.00 News: You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Mark Whittaker 12.25pm Food Programme. Presented by Derek Cooper 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Summer Series: All Things Bizarre These, by Gwyn Thomas, dramatised in three episodes by Alan Parker. With Ian Hughes and Patrick Brennan (1) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor and his guests 4.00 News: 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow attends the Tate's Mondrian exhibition and looks at paintings by Henry Raeburn at the Scottish National Gallery 4.15 In Tune. Presented by Jeremy Nicholas. Includes Dupré (Prelude and Fugue in G minor, Op 7 No 3); Elgar (Introduction and Allegro); Alben (Euler, Op 28 No 9) 6.35 BBC Proms 97. Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano, Rosa Marioni, soprano, Siela Douteux, mezzo, Toby Spence, tenor, Neilson Berg, bass, BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra, under Jiri Bohdalek. Brahms (Gesang der Parzen); Chopin (Piano Concerto No 2 in F minor) 7.50 Schubert (Symphony No 2 in C major, The Great) 8.15 Schubert (Piano Trio in D minor) 8.35 The Lindesay Play Schubert. String Quartet in E flat, D87 (1) 10.00 Heer and Now. The American composer Roger Reynolds, one of whose ambitious works will be performed at the Proms on Monday, talks about the influences on his work. Includes Jiri Winkl performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Lukas Foss; Eclogue and Cyprien, performed by Ensemble Intercontemporain, conducted by David Robertson; Arachne's Thread for Quartet and Electronics performed by the Arditi Quartet 11.30 Proms Composers of the Week: John Adams 12.30am Hard Bop. Soft Focus. Ayn Shilton looks at the history of the Blue Note record label and begins with the sound of trumpeter Lee Morgan's hit *The Sidewinder* (1) 1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

## RADIO 4

4.45 Short Story: Journeys, by Shashi Deshpande. Read by Shelley King 5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 6.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Going Places. David Stafford presents more ideas about how to do the weekend. Includes a report from Poloporo in Cornwall by June Whitfield 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week. Selected by Chris Serle 8.05 Any Questions? The topical debate in Westminster is chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby. Panelists include Dr Rosalind Miles and Times columnist Lord Rees-Mogg 8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel Berlins. Anthony Dworkin asks if rape is a unique crime, justifying special treatment by our courts 9.15 Letter from America. Another slice of life. Stalwarts served up by Alastair Cooke 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: Yemeni Patriotic Anthem examines Yemeni culture 10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Love on a Branch Line, by John Hadfield (S10) (1) 11.00 Goodness Gracious Me. Last in the series of the all-Asian comedy show. With Kuldinder Ghir, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Nita Sawhney, Nina Wadia and Meera Syal 11.25 Tea Junction. Patrick Harman and guests take a sceptical look at the week's events 12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: For some people, change brings insecurity, for others, opportunity. For the inhabitants of the Forest of Dean in 1951, it also brought tension (S5) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

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# Rescue scenarios and the swimsuit question

Time was clearly running out. Up to his neck in local opposition and exhausted by the effort of trying to stay democratic, the victim now faced a new threat — an unstoppable tide of dark oppression that would sweep away everything before it. Time, I thought, for the reassuring plink-plink of the 999 theme and some sensible advice from Michael Bond. "If you ever find yourself in Hong Kong, try not to panic."

Alas not. When help did finally arrive it was in the shape of the Prince of Wales, the Royal Yacht *Britannia* and Jonathan Dimbleby. The first two were there to make sure that Chris Patten made it physically out of Hong Kong. Dimbleby was there to ensure that his reputation escaped with him. The third, however, (BBC1) had reached the final disaster.

Dimbleby's rescue scenario, it quickly became clear, was not

of the "through train of democracy" that we have heard so much about in recent weeks, there was barely a mention. Nor was there an update of what had happened since the handover. Instead, we had some fairly baffling constitutional stuff, a well-intentioned chat about human rights and an entertaining if shameful row about passports.

The latter, not only allowed Patten to claim one of the few victories of his government, but also to put one over on Michael Howard, who had popped in just to remind us why the Conservatives lost the election and for

As Howard, in his capacity as former Home Secretary, wriggled, our man in Hong Kong gloated: "I'm delighted that he's changed his mind — shows what a broad-minded chap he is."

Eventually, however, it was all over. Patten's biceps rip trembled,

he signed a few last bits of legislation and that was it: dun-gov-ern. The lovely Lavender helped him pack and his three pretty daughters pitched up to steal the next day's front pages. The band played on... but then they always do on such occasions.

A little earlier, a slightly re-modelled but still recognisable version of the plink-plink theme tune, meant it really was time for 999, or rather its summer stable-mate, 999 International (BBC1). This turned out to be an excuse for Michael Bond to fly around the world and film expensive-looking links and for Juliet Morris to try out a new swimming costume.

Now, it's only a few years since the cosse question was the toughest obstacle a female newsreader faced as she sought to diversify her career. Did you do cosse shots — or not? Angela Rippon high-kicked

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

but did not do cosse. The Mrs Ford and Scott did neither — I'd definitely have remembered. But then came Jill Dando, who after a couple of seasons of doing imaginative things with a sarong, clearly arrived at the decision that careers are too short — especially when there are unprincipled, thigh-flashing weather girls around. These days the waters of the Mediterranean, Caribbean and Indian

Ocean are forever lapping around a shapely Dando thigh as she delivers a piece to camera.

Where Dando leads, Morris is never far behind, which is why she seems to have spent most of the summer in a swimsuit, was last night skimming across the Gulf of Honduras in a blue halter-neck and will not return to present a new series of *The House Detectives* in something small, yellow and polka-dot.

In Belize she looked pretty but rather hot. But nothing like as hot as the actor playing the marine biologist who had just swum for six hours across shark-infested waters after his speedboat sank. His submersion was going to need an awful lot of calamine lotion.

Perhaps it was the distances involved, but the emergencies didn't quite have the impact of the home-grown variety. Then there was the different attitude of those who had been rescued. Rather than showing the grovelling gratitude to the emergency services that we are accustomed to, most of last night's survivors placed their faith in a higher authority. The Belize water-taxi owner promptly changed his salvaged boat's name from *Can't Touch This* to *By the Grace of God*, while the Swiss paraglider rattled on about the "inner voice" that kept her calm as she dangled from a tower crane.

Earlier, *Pilgrims Rest* (BBC1) made a modestly encouraging start, which is about as good as it gets for new sitcoms. Helped by a new hair-do (let's not get into his origins, I couldn't bear all the lenses) Gary Olsen moved confidently on from *2point1 Children* to star as Bob, who bought a successful transport café six years ago, only to see it blighted by the building of a bypass. Gwen Taylor was on more familiar ground as Tilly, the sister

who loaned him half the money to buy the place and now wants to bail because she's been left by her husband. With the finesse that Tilly's husband left her for a man and that Bob, of course, hasn't any money, that is the situation.

As for the comedy, it was fine without being mould-breaking and nothing like as funny as a hyped-up studio audience seemed to find it. Are lines such as "in France we eat our snails, we do not give them driving licences" really worth a round of applause? However, there were moments worth a chuckle and the supporting cast, while plucked straight from the back catalogue of comic stereotypes (gay waitress, lugubrious policeman, dim youth, etc) seemed promising. For a moment, I thought Didier, the French lorry-driver, represented a genuine spark of originality... but then I remembered *Allo, Allo* and the moment passed.

## BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (55158)

7.00am Breakfast News (7) (55555)

9.00am Breakfast News Extra (7) (55555)

9.30am Ready, Steady, Go! (55555)

9.50am EastEnders (7) (55555)

10.00am The Royle Family (7) (55555)

10.45am Caroline's Evening with Confidence (55555)

11.00am News (7) (55555)

11.05am Due South (7) (55555)

11.50am Good Neighbours (7) (55555)

12.00pm News (7) (55555)

12.05pm Wipeout (7) (55555)

12.30pm News (7) (55555)

1.00pm News (7) (55555)

1.30pm Regional News (55555)

1.40pm Columbo: Silent Spring (55555)

3.10pm Quiz: Three mysterious deaths are traced to a football stadium, where a major championship is due to take place in a matter of days (7) (55555)

4.00pm Popsie (241975) 4.10pm To Me, To You (73555)

4.30pm Popsie (73555) 4.35pm To Me, To You (73555)

4.50pm Popsie (73555) 4.55pm To Me, To You (73555)

5.10pm Record Breakers (7) (55555)

5.30pm Neighbours (7) (55555)

6.00pm News (7) (55555)

6.30pm Regional News (55555)

7.00pm Celebrity Ready, Steady, Go! (55555)

7.30pm Top of the Pops (7) (55555)

8.00pm Only Fools and Horses (55555)

8.30pm Get It with Britain's Funniest (55555)

9.00pm News (7) (55555)

9.30pm Tom Clancy's Op Center with Henry Hamlin and Rod Sliger. First of a two-part Cold War drama. The head of a doomsday military centre sets out to prove his worth by embarking on a near-impossible mission to find three nuclear weapons stolen by a Russian agent (7) (55555)

11.25pm The Bill (55555)

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## BBC2

6.00am Open University: Behaviour (159451) 6.25am Regions Apart (174517)

7.15pm The House of Commons (7) (55555)

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6.00am GMTV (7047737)

9.25am Win, Lose or Draw (7) (55555)

9.55am Judge Judy (7) (55555)

10.20am News (7) (55555)

10.25am Regional News (7) (55555)

10.30am Desperate Rescue A fact-based drama starring Mariel Hemingway (51373061)

10.35am Regional News (7) (55555)

12.30am News (7) (55555)

12.55am Design by Emanuel (1490159)

1.25am Home and Away (7) (14421420)

1.50am Hart to Hart: Crimes of the Hart (1894)

1.55am Home and Away (7) (14421420)

2.00am The LADS (7) (1411655)

3.00am Baywatch (405575)

3.45am Haller Stiller (487444)

3.50am News (7) (55555)

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